

President Amin summons 10 Americans before him

Amin yesterday summoned the 10 Americans in Uganda to appear in court on Monday. The move appeared to be a reaction to criticism of his regime by Mr Carter. In a letter to Mr Carter, Amin accused the United States of plotting to overthrow him and of being an American President "the exhaust pipe of the world".

Letter to Mr Carter alleges CIA plot

Mr Amin in a letter to Mr Carter yesterday alleged that the CIA was plotting to overthrow him. He said that the CIA was "the exhaust pipe of the world" and that it was "the only power in the world which is not accountable to the people". He also accused the CIA of being involved in the assassination of President Kennedy.

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C suspends its butter subsidy

The European Commission has suspended its butter subsidy. The Commission said that the subsidy was "no longer justified" because of the "excess production" of butter in the Community.

in big row kills six

A fire in a factory in Moscow killed six people. The fire broke out in a factory which was producing "military equipment".

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The scene of the murder of Mr Ian Jebb, the bank cashier.

Hunt for girl after bank killing

From John Charters, Prestbury, Cheshire

A police hunt for a girl who was seen at the scene of a bank robbery in Prestbury, Cheshire, is continuing. The girl was seen running away from the scene of the robbery.

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Portuguese devalue by 15pc

From Jose Shercliff, Lisbon, Feb 25

Portugal is devaluing the escudo by 15 per cent. The devaluation is part of a series of measures to combat inflation.

Fittleton CO reprimanded on one charge

Lieutenant-Commander Peter Paget, who was commanding the minesweeper Fittleton last September when it sank in the North Sea, with the loss of 12 lives, was yesterday reprimanded on one charge of negligence.

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Everything now depends on price restraint, Mr Jones says

By Paul Routledge and Christopher Thomas

Mr Jones says that the success of the economic measures depends on price restraint. He said that the Government must "control the money supply" to combat inflation.

Rider refused licence

The Jockey Club has refused to issue a licence to a rider. The rider was found to be "unfit to ride" because of "excessive drinking".

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White Paper calls for spending cuts in 1980

By David Blake, Economics Correspondent

The White Paper calls for spending cuts in 1980. The Government is aiming to reduce the budget deficit by 1980.

Abortion Bill gets second reading after fierce debate

By Hugh Noyes, Parliamentary Correspondent, Westminster

The Abortion Bill has passed its second reading in the House of Commons. The Bill was passed by a majority of 170 votes.

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Leyland expansion plans in jeopardy as strike crisis deepens

By Edward Townsend

Mr Kaufman is speaking as the Leyland crisis deepens. The Leyland crisis is a result of a strike by the Leyland workers.

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Rudolf Hess suicide attempt reported

By Paul Routledge and Christopher Thomas

Rudolf Hess is reported to have attempted suicide. The report says that Hess was "in a state of mind" to attempt suicide.

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HOME NEWS

White Paper on public expenditure

Protection of benefits against inflation to be continued

By Pat Healy

Social Services Correspondent

The Government has used the new White Paper on public expenditure to announce two important social policy decisions.

First, it will not bow to pressure to stop protecting social security benefits against inflation. Secondly, it will make more money available for health and social services if population projections, particularly over elderly people and children, prove correct.

The decision on social security comes after mounting pressure to stop short-term benefits, particularly unemployment benefits, rising in line with inflation. MPs have argued that such protection is unfair to wage earners who have no similar protection under the pay policy.

But benefits were at a low level compared with wages when inflation-proofing was introduced two years ago, and an unemployed family with two children under five would still be entitled to benefit of less than two thirds of the average wage.

The White Paper makes it clear that the Government has not been swayed by arguments about the relative spending power of people in and out of work. The projection of the cost of the social security budget until 1980-81 is based on the assumption that benefits will continue to rise in line with inflation.

The White Paper says that the rates of benefit will increase in the light of the Government's commitment to raising pensions and other long-term benefits in line with prices or earnings, whichever rise most, and the main short-term benefits in line with prices.

The commitment, embodied in the Social Security Act, 1973, is intended to preserve the value of short-term benefits and allow pensions and other long-term benefits to grow in real terms. Unlike social security, health and

social services have previously been subject to precise limits on growth of expenditure.

The decision to allow them more money if necessary has been taken because it is clearly and some flexibility is needed if standards are to be maintained.

The limit on personal social services for 1976-77 has been overtaken and may even reach the level planned for the next year. That has been caused by unavoidable increases in costs of residential and day care services, but the Government is taking steps to prevent that from exceeding expenditure plans again.

For each of the next two years £6m will be transferred from capital to current expenditure and £9m from 1979-80 onwards. That will give a small margin for increased current expenditure next year, but it will also mean that fewer new residential and day care projects can be built. That in turn will reduce the future running costs caused by capital projects.

The Government is waiting for new population projections to be made available this autumn before deciding firm plans for the health services. Present projections predict an upturn in the birth rate, which has been falling since the mid-1960s.

Transport

The figures for transport expenditure are almost wholly tentative, since a separate transport White Paper is expected to be made available in the policy review published last year (our Planning Reporter writes). That is expected to give a much clearer idea of the likely future balance between investment in roads and in public transport, and of the Government's attitude to subsidies, particularly to British Rail.

The tables of capital expenditure in 1976-77 and 1977-78 show the dominant dependence

of British Rail on government grants. In addition, about £300m is provisionally allocated from central funds for passenger subsidies.

Short-term cuts fall mainly on expected road building. Trunk road and local road programmes are each reduced by about £100m in the coming financial year.

Education

There will be no increase in the total number of academic staff employed in universities, further education institutions and teacher training colleges in the financial year, according to figures on education expenditure published in the White Paper (David Dickson writes).

The higher and further education sector will also be required to make more intensive use of other resources, and will be subject to continuing severe restrictions on capital expenditure.

Nor does the further outlook seem much brighter. The White Paper estimates that current and capital expenditure on higher and further education will increase to £2,118m by 1980-81, an increase of only 3.7 per cent on the figure of £2,041m for 1976-77. Total expenditure for 1977-78 will be £1,990m, a decrease of 2.5 per cent on the figure for the present year. The reduction in current expenditure will be 1 per cent, and in capital expenditure 19.4 per cent.

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Law and order

A decline in the conditions of prison life and the state of prison establishments is forecast. Based on the assumption that the prison population of England, Wales and Scotland will be 48,100 by 1980-81, the forecast provides for the completion of present prison projects, producing 4,750 more places (Marcel Berlins writes).

From 1977-78, however, capital expenditure will decline sharply, from £41m in 1977-78 to £19m in 1980-81. Probation and after-care services will also suffer. Although some increase in staff and extension of projects such as community service schemes are envisaged, the rate of growth will be much smaller than forecast last year. Probation and bail hostels, and day training schemes, are among other victims.

In one of its few optimistic passages, the White Paper shows that police recruitment has grown faster than was expected. The revised forecast for police strength in March, 1980, is more than 127,000, an increase of nearly 3,000 over the figure estimated in the White Paper last year, although still below the authorised establishments of 130,150.

Civilian staff, including traffic wardens, will, however, be reduced from about 49,000 to 42,000 in 1980.

New magistrates' courts under construction will be completed, but from 1977-78 only essential minor works will be approved. In 1980-81, a very small resumption of new work may be possible. Because of the increased expenditure on higher courts necessitated by the rise in both civil and criminal cases, approved building programmes will have to be postponed.

Housing

The most striking feature of the projected housing expenditure for the next two years is a sharp decline in local authority investment (more than 16 per cent), and an increase in subsidies of more than 10 per cent (John Young writes).

The figures would appear to confirm the widely expressed view that the rising burden of subsidies is seriously eating into the resources available for new construction and renovation. Projections for new council house building, for example, drop from 51,293m in 1976-77 to 51,036m in 1978-79.

The official explanation is that local authorities were found to have heavily overspent on building programmes in the middle of last year, and that the latest figures merely represent the tightening of controls announced in July.

Housing construction in areas of acute stress, mainly in the larger cities, will not be restricted, it is emphasized, although councils elsewhere may find it generally more difficult to obtain government loan sanction.

The White Paper points out that the higher figure for subsidies is mainly because of prospective increases in loan charges, which represent on average about two thirds of total revenue expenditure. It also suggests that the continuing sharp reduction in local authority mortgage lending (£116m in 1977-78, compared with £737m in 1974-75) will be

at least partly offset by building societies.

From 1979 onwards the Government expects a rise in housing investment, but no details are provided, partly because councils have been promised a single capital allocation, with freedom to determine spending priorities, and partly because the future pattern of expenditure is likely to be determined by the outcome of the Government's housing review.

The arts

A reduction of more than £2m in spending on the arts over the next two years is forecast in last year's expenditure White Paper, has been averted. Lord Donaldson of Kingsbridge, minister responsible for the arts, announced yesterday (Kenneth Gosling writes).

Had the cuts been made, he said, it would have meant the closure of one of the main arts institutions or something very near it.

As it is, in spite of "some pretty savage cuts in capital expenditure", the present level of spending will be maintained to take account of inflation. That means that Arts Council grants, to be announced next month, will probably go up by something like £1m for 1978, lifting the total to about £42m.

Projected expenditure on museums and galleries, set out in volume two of the Government's expenditure plans, shows a small built-in increase. But Lord Donaldson explained that the three capital expenditure cuts made in the past year were accepted as a matter of policy.

It would be possible in 1977-78 to finish the extension to the Tate Gallery, the building of new galleries at the British Museum and Science Museum, representing a £6m investment, and to start work on the extension of the Victoria and Albert Museum at a cost of £1,500,000.

Commander guilty of only one charge

Lieutenant-Commander Peter Paget, the Royal Naval Reserve commander of the minesweeper Fittleron, which sank last September with the loss of 18 lives after colliding with the frigate Mermaid in the North Sea, was last night found guilty of one charge of negligence. He was sentenced to be reprimanded, the lightest penalty possible.

A court martial at Portsmouth found Commander Paget, aged 44, not guilty of three other charges of negligence, including the most serious one of allowing his ship to be lost.

Commander Paget, who works in a London shipping office, was found guilty of his negligence in failing to reduce speed drastically and then alter away in small steps to extricate the Fittleron from a dangerous position close alongside the Mermaid.

After the hearing, whose findings have to be confirmed, Commander Paget said that he would continue to serve in the Royal Naval Reserve. "It is, and always has been, a great part of my life," he said.

He added that he would continue to support the fund

that was set up for the benefit of the six widows and orphans of the men lost in the disaster. He said: "The disaster was a momentary error under £50,000."

The court martial had 1 evidence in mitigation of his negligence. His commanding officer, Captain Rodney Farnport, RNE, Commander Paget had been commanding officer for 1 and a half years before the collision. A month before he had been commended by Admiralty for the way he controlled a seven-vessel sea for a yacht that had been downed.

The loss of the Fittleron, the worst naval reserve disaster since the war, last night, Ministry of Defence said, evidence given to any court martial was inevitably for its broader implications.

During the hearing, the comparison was made between standards expected of reserve and full-time naval ratings. Reserve ratings and general shore training were attached to a ship for two years for training at sea. Cers do 40 two-hour periods drill and up to 14 days continuous training a year.

Article on union chief 'a satire'

Mr Paul Foot, former editor of the Socialist Worker, said in the High Court yesterday that a newspaper article about Mr Clive Jenkins and his union's cheap Spanish holidays for members was "a weapon of anger".

A number of the union's members had been accused of the decision to provide holidays in Spain, Mr Foot said. "We also were angry that a British trade union should encourage holidays to Spain and that Clive Jenkins and his union were, in our opinion, offering comfort to the Franco regime."

Mr Foot said that the article, published in the Socialist Worker on February 15, 1975, under the heading "Spain: Fly Mr. Clive" was "a satire, a skit, lampoon, parody or spoof".

"No one reading the article would believe that Clive had become an air hostess and a courier around General Franco's prisons, or that he could take a sadistic and ghoulish pleasure in watching the garrotting of Spanish socialists," he added.

He was giving evidence in defence to a libel action brought by Mr Jenkins, general secretary, and the Association of Scientific, Technical and Managerial Staffs (ASTMS). The action is against Mr Foot, Socialist Worker Printers and Publishers Ltd, and S. W. Liddle, Printers Ltd, all of Bethnal Green, London.

Mr Jenkins and the union claim that the article implied that they condoned and approved of General Franco's fascist regime.

The defendants deny libel. They claim that the article was fair comment written without malice.

The hearing continues on Monday.

Correction

YKK fasteners, described in the Special Report on Runcorn, is not the "only wholly owned Japanese company in Britain". It is one of a number of such companies.

'Confidence broken' on fraud letter

By Our Social Services Correspondent

Mr John Spratt, Conservative MP for Aberdeen, said his constituency party night that the Government

"sunk to a new low in the dregs of the political system" by showing the "Times" confidential information on social security abuse that had been forwarded for investigation.

Mr Orme, Minister of Social Security, had broken confidence in a way totally contrary to accepted parliamentary practice, Mr Spratt said. It was an arrogant abuse of the bureaucracy of the rights of backbench MP.

"More important, it is an abuse of ordinary men, women who have the constitutional right to expect that their representatives in Parliament will respect their confidence."

"It is ironic that I was early in my campaign to stop abuse that I, as an MP, could not discuss such matters with civil servants because the law prohibited under the Official Secrets Act."

A selection of the letters to Mr Spratt was shown to me during the night. All had corresponded names and addresses, many of them to Mr Orme. The fact that they were not identified by name, whom suspicion was thrown most of whom, investigation showed, were not abusing social security.

Strike will affect sport on TV

BBC outside broadcast television cameramen based in London have been instructed to strike today between 2 pm and 5.30 pm. Some of the sport coverage for the Grand National, which will be affected, will be taken over by BBC 1.

The action which has been called for by the Association of Broadcasting and Allied Staffs is over a grading claim and involves about fifty cameramen, most of whom are based at the BBC.

No increase in pay, Liberals say

By Our Political Staff

The third phase of incomes policy for the United Kingdom should allow no overall increases at all, Mr John Pardon, Liberal Treasury spokesman, said last night in the House of Commons.

The "norm is now", he said, summing up his thesis, "irresponsible Budget".

Anyone, he said, who was ruthless about Britain's state, rather than partisan, knew that the British economy had been in decline for a long time and that no one government had a monopoly of blame. Nevertheless, he saw a danger that the only kind of Budget that would persuade the Tories to accept a pay policy would be an "irresponsible Budget".

Mr David Steel, the Liberal Party leader, asked in St. Stephen's, Birmingham, whether it was worth saving the Labour Party, which between 1974 and 1976 lost its majority in fulfilling Sir Harold Wilson's desire to become the party of government, the price had been paid of loss of principle.

Mr Steel bleakly saw the Labour Party as a rump of Marxists and state socialists. He called for a break-out from the stalemate of British politics "by setting in motion the political upheaval which Britain so clearly needs".

In Bristol last night Mr Whiteley, Conservative deputy leader, associated himself firmly with the Conservative backbench motion calling for a new policy pay settlement.

Mr Whiteley, the shadow Home Secretary, said that the Government must face the fact that a number of branches of the Police Federation had voted in favour of getting the right to strike and the proposal would certainly be debated at the federation conference in May. "The Government", he said, "should ponder very seriously what these moves might lead to."

Granted a strike, the police would never be looked on in the same light again; their whole standing and effectiveness would be reduced.

Cabinet fails to resolve EEC vote dilemma

By Michael Hatfield

Political Reporter

Cabinet ministers, faced with an early government commitment to the European elections to hold direct elections for the European Parliament next year, failed to agree at a meeting yesterday how to resolve the party political dilemma involved.

The crude political terms, there are those in the Cabinet who maintain their deep-felt opposition to Britain's membership of the European Community and who will never be satisfied with any solution agreed in Cabinet, and there are the pragmatists who are searching for a way of meeting the commitment without creating an outcry in the Labour Party.

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Police appeal for witnesses to killing of student

By a Staff Reporter

Detectives hunting the killer of a coloured student who was shot outside a London railway station on Thursday night have appealed for witnesses to a chance encounter and that there was no motive for his death.

The man, aged 21, from Cameroun, West Africa, was shot in the chest after he had been involved in an argument with two white men outside a restaurant near Paddington station.

The two men disappeared into an underground station and may have escaped through another exit. The student died in hospital.

Police have appealed for witnesses. The description they have of the two men is that one was aged about 18 and the other 20 to 21. The student was more than 6ft 4in tall and "quite distinctive".

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'Adverse effect' of their work worries broadcasters

By Kenneth Gosling

A survey of the state of social research into broadcasting in Britain has disclosed a "growing anxiety" among broadcasters about responsibility for the alleged adverse effect of broadcasting's casual language on speech and thought and the possible encouragement of emotionality, as opposed to rationality, in the making of political judgments.

Professor Elihu Katz, Professor of Sociology and director of the Communication Institute at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, gave the results of his survey in a BBC lunchtime lecture yesterday. The survey was made at the invitation of the BBC and took 15 months.

He said that the broadcasters with whom he spoke wondered if broadcasting was vulgarising the institutions of their society and its culture. Not all had asked such questions, but "Procedures for monitoring sensitive areas, such as politics, industry, race, and sexual matters, might provide a bulwark against the charge of bias, he said."

The power of broadcasting is never greater than in a climate of the decline of authority. Some broadcasters fear that this climate breeds an over-concern with playing safe; others feared that it might breed too much licence. But all were agreed, he said, that only the rules—the institutional arrangements of a democratic society on the one hand, and the professional rules of broadcasting on the other—could safeguard broadcasting.

There is a growing awareness, he added, that broadcasting has lost touch with widening spectrum of social views and values, and that many voices go unheard.

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Tories claim 9pc swing in byelection poll

The Conservative Party calculated a swing of 9.25 per cent in the by-election on Thursday when Mr Peter Brooke held the Cities of London and Westminster, South. The result was:

P. Brooke (C) 11,962
M. Noble (Lab) 3,597
S. G. (Lib) 1,981
P. Karanagh (Nat Front) 1,051
P. Mitchell (Homosexual Rights) 449
M. Lobb (Nat Party) 364
D. Delfield (New Britain) 306
W. Beck (Air, Road, Public Safety) 61
R. Herbert (Christ. Crown, Country) 47
W. Thompson (Christian, Anti-Porn) 43

C majority 7,965

General Election: C. S. Tugendhat (C), 14,350; P. J. Turner (Lab), 8,589; T. G. Underwood (L), 4,286; D. Baster (Nat Front), 686; C majority, 5,761.

The Conservatives claimed a 9.25 per cent swing.

The percentage poll was:

C 58 51.7 52.1
Lab 30 30.8 30.8
L 10 10.1 10.1
N Front 2 2.2 2.2
Others (total) 4.6 4.6 4.6Poll (%) 58 51.7 52.1
Electorate 51,171 52,170 52,170
All candidates except Conservative and Labour lost their deposits.

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Commander only one

NEWS

Football in Court north

Secretary's decision Mr Mark Hosken, a Divisional Court judge, has ruled in favour of the Lord Chief Justice, Mr Justice of the Queen's Bench, in a case against a football club.

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Patrol submarines of the 1st Submarine Squadron at HMS Dolphin, Gosport. In the foreground (from left) are the Oberon class boats, HMS Otus, HMS Oracle and HMS Ocelot.

Boy aged six feared drowned as flooding affects homes and roads

A boy aged six was feared drowned after falling into the sea at Burrowash, in Dorset, one of the areas worst affected by flooding yesterday.

Andrew Clements and his brother had been playing on a rope over the brook, which had flooded the village in a flash between four and five feet overnight. By last night it was receding.

Hundreds of acres of land in the east and west Midlands were submerged yesterday under floodwater after nearly eight days of continuous rain and about 25 inches of rain.

The weather centre said the reason was a belt of rain across the Midlands which has remained virtually stationary for four days.

In Leicestershire hundreds of homes in the Loughborough and Melford Mowbray areas were flooded.

Two families had to leave their homes at Cross Gates, Leeds, when heavy rain opened up a 30ft diameter hole in the ground. The police said heavy rain had moved soil and a concrete cap sealing a 100-year-old ventilation shaft to a mine fell down the shaft.

Widespread flooding was reported in East Anglia, with thousands of acres of marsh and farmland under water.

In Kent, Surrey, Sussex, Hampshire and Wiltshire motorists faced another hazard, fog. In the North snow blocked many main roads and all routes over the Pennines.

The Thames Water Authority said that its "red alert" was still on. Widespread flooding had not occurred because there had been only 0.05in of rain since midnight on Thursday.

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Two Danish trawler skippers to pay £22,000

Two Danish trawler skippers who were caught fishing inside Britain's 12-mile limit were fined a total of £22,000 and ordered to forfeit their catch, worth about £12,000, by magistrates in Plymouth yesterday.

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WEST EUROPE

French print union gives way over technology

New left-wing daily newspaper to appear in Paris on Tuesday

From Charles Hargrove
Paris, Feb 25
A new daily newspaper, *Le Matin de Paris*, will make its first appearance on Tuesday. At first sight, the background and timing hardly seem favourable. The future of the press, the Paris press at least, is these days painted in the blackest of colours.

A whirlwind is sweeping through it, dismantling old newspaper strongholds like the *Provençal* and *Hachette* groups, and thrusting new ones to the top, like the *Hesant* empire. Since the press at the time of *Figaro*, *France-Soir* and *Paris-Match*, have changed hands just like any ordinary commercial undertaking, with little or no consultation with their staffs.

The unsentimental conflict at *Le Parisien Libéré*, nearly two years old, continues to threaten the delicate financial health of many of the 10 surviving Paris newspapers. (There were three times as many at the time of the liberation.) In the past 12 months, it was the cause of seven strikes, a number of incidents between its striking printers and the police, and of a substantial loss of advertising revenue. It has also had the effect of increasing the dissatisfaction of readers with newspapers generally, for the benefit of radio and television.

To launch a new newspaper on such storm-tossed waters therefore seems a very reckless undertaking. Yet Mr Claude Perdrat, the editor-in-chief of *Le Matin de Paris*, is no wide-eyed amateur with his head in the clouds. A highly successful businessman, graduated from the Ecole Polytechnique, he acquired the sailing ship magazine *Le Nouvel Observateur*, and in just over 10 years, turned it into a highly successful financial publication, with a circulation of about 300,000.

In a letter to the readers of the magazine, calling for financial support, he claimed that the press was being handed over to the powers of money. And that plutocracy of information was under sentence of death in France. There was therefore the need, and the market—for a great left-wing daily newspaper.

At any rate, he does not believe in doing things by halves. Six hundred thousand copies of the first number of *Le Matin de Paris* are being printed. Thanks both to contributions by *Le Nouvel Observateur*, to the response of readers, and to shareholders of the magazine who are "politically acceptable", he has got together some 20m francs (£2.2m) which he considers more than enough for a start. He reckons that the newspaper can break even with a circulation of 120,000, and would be doing very well with 200,000.

It will be a 32-page tabloid, reminiscent of some of the more successful weeklies, with a single photograph on the front page. It is "popular" in layout, and in style, but serious in content rather after the pattern of the defunct *Lisbon République*, appealing to middle managers, intellectuals, specialized workers, and the young, who find *Le Monde* boring, as the assistant editors told me.

Its aim is to come closer to the British concept of a newspaper, give up abstract treatment of news, and deal with it in a more concrete fashion, separating fact from comment. The newspaper is produced in offset on six columns from what it claims is the most modern plant in Paris. One of its financial assets is that it has been able to negotiate a very favourable agreement with the all-powerful printers' union, affiliated to the communist-led CGI, which imposes a closed shop in Paris newspapers and enforces gross overmanning. This is one of the sources of the financial difficulties of the press in general.

In the case of *Le Matin de Paris*, the printers' union was given to understand that it had to water down its pretensions or there would be no newspaper at all. This was a turning point in the attitude of the union, and the tacit acknowledgment that it should be made clear that he was not volunteering judgments, but merely replying to press questions.

He said that because of the nationality problem in some states it was impossible even now to imagine that in two years a uniform system of election to the European Parliament could be devised.

M. Spénale was replying to a question as to whether the other eight could proceed if Britain failed to meet its commitment. He also made the point that in a European parliamentary election, 12 nationalities living in a Community country would be allowed to vote, and he argued that there was no reason why a French candidate should not stand in Britain for his party group, or in Britain in France, because of the voters' party groupings in the European Parliament.

Asked what the reaction of the rest of the EEC would be if Britain failed to fulfil the timetable, M. Spénale replied: "It would be most unpleasant for everyone—for those who did everything they could do in time, and for the United Kingdom which would be responsible for the situation."

Leading article, page 13

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Man 'watched wife take her life'

From Our Correspondent Birmingham
Mr Charles Whiteley, a former Birmingham University professor, shared special views with his wife about life and death, an inquest jury in Birmingham was told yesterday.

She believed her life was her own to take and the professor, aged 63, agreed that he would not prevent her committing suicide.

The jury was told that last November he watched as she swallowed a lethal overdose of tablets, which she washed down with whisky, and then collapsed.

Dr F. E. D. Griffiths, consultant pathologist, said: "We have taken Mrs. Winifred Whiteley, aged 63, of Tenbury Avenue, King's Heath, Birmingham, at least an hour to die."

Professor Whiteley waited until she was dead before he telephoned to the family doctor, it was stated.

Mr Thomas Geoffrey Ayres, of Moseley, Birmingham, a friend of the couple, said: "She had no religious convictions whatsoever. Over many years she said her body was her responsibility. It did not belong to God, in whom she did not believe, or to the state, but only to herself."

Professor Whiteley was alleged to have told the police after reporting his wife's death: "I made an agreement during the summer that if she wanted to take her own life I would not stop her. She told me this morning that she wanted to take her life. I did nothing to stop her."

The jury returned a verdict that Mrs. Whiteley killed herself. Det. Sergeant Sidney Reeves said earlier that papers on the case had been submitted to the Director of Public Prosecutions.

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Britain given warning on European election delay

By Our Political Editor
Candid comments on the British government's attitude towards direct elections to the European Parliament came from M. Georges Spénale, the French president of the Parliament, in London yesterday.

At the end of a visit during which he has seen the Queen Mother, he said that the French government was determined to ensure comprehensive direct elections in May or June of next year.

Speaking while the Cabinet was meeting at 10 Downing Street to settle policy on direct elections, M. Spénale said: "Personally I would find it rather unpleasant to ask the eight to take their place from the one country that falls behind schedule."

He did not think it realistic to postpone direct elections. Nevertheless, he conceded that "we are starting from a political, constitutional, and structural laws that make it very difficult."

M. Spénale expressly asked that it should be made clear that he was not volunteering judgments, but merely replying to press questions.

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Leading article, page 13

Spain considers extension of police powers

From Our Correspondent Madrid, Feb 25
The Spanish Cabinet met today to consider extending the special emergency powers of the police for another month. Since January 31 the police have been authorized to search and seize without warrant and to hold prisoners for up to 10 days without charge in cases of suspected terrorism.

The cabinet was also asked to consider the launching of this support for the Government by expelling its economic objectives in the thinking of a illustrated business raid with a circulation of about 100,000.

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Company fails to stop TV equal-pay film

By a Staff Reporter
Electrolux Ltd failed yesterday to get an injunction in the High Court to prevent Granada Television's showing of a film of a meeting on equal pay of 600 women employees at the company's Luton factory.

The three-minute film is part of a half-hour *World in Action* programme which on Monday will examine the Equal Pay Act, 1970, which came into force 14 months ago.

The meeting, filmed by Granada last week, had been called at the end of a two-day strike in protest over the way the firm was implementing the provisions of the Act.

In November the Employment Appeals Tribunal dismissed an appeal by Electrolux against a Bedford industrial tribunal's decision that Mrs. Anne Hutchinson and other women assembly workers at the Luton factory were entitled to equal pay with men doing broadly similar work.

Mrs. Hutchinson said all but one of the factory's 500 women applicants at the same rate as the men. But those women were immediately transferred to different jobs and their places taken by seven other women, all on the lower 01 grade rate.

At least 122 women employees are now before industrial tribunals, and a further 105 claims for equal pay have been made to the company.

The Equal Opportunities Commission announced last week that it is in carry out a formal investigation into conditions at the Luton factory.

Automation 'could make libraries obsolete'

By Our Arts Reporter
The twin technologies of automation and telecommunications could make the library as we know it obsolete, Lord Eccles said yesterday.

"In my view," he said, "the technologies will revolutionize beyond recognition one half of the library's work, and could dismember the other half, unless we understand why and how we use the traditional methods of using a library for the study of literature."

Lord Eccles, chairman of the British Library, was opening the new library at the University of St. Andrews, said he was not suggesting a campaign against the use of computers; mechanical storage and retrieval should be employed "for all they are worth."

"But suppose that you are also interested, as the Greeks were, in understanding people, in achieving some order in your own thoughts or at least in learning how to put up with life. The data-bases and on-line terminals will not be of much help. You will not want to share the experience, recollected and ordered in their writings, of poets, dramatists, theologians, historians and novelists. Literature does not copy the world. It selects and designs patterns which you cannot see at first hand because you are too entangled with reality."

The unanswered question was whether academic libraries were going to put as much effort into rethinking their presentation of literature as they were bound to put into making their computerized information services. "I am optimistic," he said.

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600 escape from Italian jails in 14 months

From Our Own Correspondent Rome, Feb 25
Official figures show that there were 510 escapes from prison in Italy last year. This compares with 400 in 1975, seven managed to get away. This year so far 90 escapes have been listed.

Signor Renato dell'Andro, the Under-Secretary at the Ministry of Justice responsible for prisons, after quizzing the figures, blamed bureaucratic difficulties for the failure to build new and more secure prisons.

He implied in an interview that the Ministry of Defence had blocked an idea to reinforce the prison guards with volunteers from the Army.

A prisoner serving a sentence for having killed an antiquarian at Riccione was the aim of robbing him, shot his wife and her lover on Wednesday night while on leave.

Police Sergeant Kenneth Davies, of Bishop's Cleeve, Gloucestershire, is asking the judge to uphold the will made in August, 1973, three months before Mrs. Salmon died, aged 80. Under that will he receives the bulk of her estate of £200,000.

The will is challenged by a distant cousin and four charities, all beneficiaries under a 1971 will. They claim that Mrs. Salmon was mentally unfit to make her last will in Sergeant Davies's favour.

Prison officers at Leicester jail have called off their action in refusing to escort prisoners to court and supervise prison workshops.

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action taken for two s on training plan

3. of the Times
Education Supplement making new recommendations for teacher training 500 further education and 30 polytechnic and other considerations the Department of Science and Education for years and has not acted on it was decided.

ort prepared by the Committee on the Training of teachers and other new to further education from 1981 onwards required to have teacher training. The new lecturers should train for a year in

ted to the department in June, 1975. At a meeting of the Association of Colleges for Further Education in London yesterday he reported the department's lack of response.

He said the proposals were intended to mark an interim stage in the development of teacher training in further education. They should remain valid guidelines when action became possible.

Opportunities for training in service should be more generous than for those in schools because of the big backlogs of untrained teachers, the need for subject updating, and changing manpower requirements in industry. Professor Kaycock said.

In 1973 only a third of the 65,500 lecturers employed in polytechnics and colleges had undertaken full-time teacher training courses leading to a certificate of education.

Belgium paralysed by first in series of one-day strikes

From Our Own Correspondent Brussels, Feb 25
About 330,000 railwaymen, private sector workers and employees of provincial and communal services went on strike in Belgium today in the first of a series of carefully planned 24-hour stoppages which Mr. Tindemans, the Prime Minister, has denounced as a direct political challenge to his Government.

The centre-piece of today's action was the total shutdown of the national railway system. Heavy traffic built up on roads this morning, but many people appeared to have stayed at home.

State schools, shops, factories and public services in the provinces were also closed.

The national television and radio network, broadcast only hourly news bulletins interspersed with recorded music. Spontaneous sympathy strikes by factory and shop workers were also reported from Liège and Namur.

The plan is that two different provinces will go on strike on each of the next four Fridays, ending up with the Brussels region. The strategy will be backed up by selective national stoppages of public services.

Recent sharp increases in VAT on a wide range of consumer goods appear to have been the final straw for workers already disgruntled by high unemployment and inflation and increased social security charges.

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Italian avalanche kills tourists in car

Bolzano, Italy, Feb. 25.—Four West German tourists died in a car when their car was buried beneath one of five avalanches that struck a mountain pass highway near here and isolated the villages of Solda, Gomogoi and Trafoi.

A magistrate today ordered Señor Mariano Sánchez Covisa, leader of the right-wing *Partido Popular* for Christ the King, to the barracks at Carabanchel prison pending trial in connection with the illegal manufacture of arms at the secret factory discovered earlier this week in a flat owned by unsuspecting flats.

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OVERSEAS

Zambia and Mozambique leaders call for intensified guerrilla war against Rhodesia

From Nicholas Ashford Lusaka, Feb 25

President Kaunda of Zambia and President Machel of Mozambique ended two days of talks in a Zambian game park today with a call for an intensification of the guerrilla war against Rhodesia.

A brief statement afterwards provided little indication as to the content of the talks which were expected to review plans to unify the two guerrilla groups, Zanu and Zazu, which are fighting in Rhodesia.

The statement said the two presidents noted that the situation was "ripe for an intensification of the armed struggle against the Smith regime". In a clear reference to the Rhodesian Government's latest package of race reforms, the statement said the action was "tantamount to the last lacks of a dying horse".

Zambia and Mozambique are two of the "front line" states sharing a common border with Rhodesia and are now backing the Patriotic Front led by Mr Joshua Nkomo and Mr Robert Mugabe. The Zazu forces are based in Zambia and the Zanu forces in Mozambique.

As expected, the talks, the second in a proposed series of bilateral contacts, also dealt with the construction of roads and other forms of communication between the two countries.

Meanwhile, in Lusaka, a spokesman for Zanu denied reports that 15 boys, part of

the 349 students who fled from the Manama mission school in Rhodesia earlier this month, had been murdered by Zanu commanders for refusing to go to a training camp near here.

The spokesman, Mr George Silundika, described the reports as "blatant lies" designed to discredit Zanu and the Patriotic Front. A Zambian police spokesman also denied that any killings had taken place.

This is the second denial in two days that Zanu has had to issue concerning persistent reports of unrest in the camp where the students are being sent. It is alleged that some are members of Zanu and are being forced to join Zanu against their will.

Michael Knipe writes from Salisbury: Rhodesians, black and white and of all shades of opinion, have reacted with marked lack of enthusiasm to the intended amendments to the race discrimination laws announced by Mr Smith.

The Rhodesian leader said in Parliament on Thursday that while agricultural land as well as industrial and commercial areas would be opened up to all races, legislation segregating races in licensed premises and private schools would be dropped and there would be improved opportunities for blacks in the security forces and other government departments.

However, some of the reforms, particularly the opening up of white agricultural

land, are resented by Mr Smith's supporters while as far as his opponents are concerned they are nowhere near radical enough.

Mr Willie Musarurwa, spokesman of the African nationalist faction led by Mr Joshua Nkomo, commented: "The African people no longer ask to be ruled well by the minority regime or by anybody. They want to rule themselves."

The Rhodesia Herald, which tends to support the Government rather than the white opposition parties, said in a leading article: "It is difficult to understand why Mr Smith, having gone so far as to open agricultural, industrial and commercial areas to all races, should have faltered over urban residential areas, schools and hospitals."

The paper continued: "Since the Prime Minister has accepted the principle of majority rule in two years, when all discrimination must surely go, why is it not have been wise to bow to the inevitable now, at any rate by making a declaration of intent?"

Mrs Muriel Rosin, the leader of the white opposition Rhodesia Party, said Rhodesia was on the road to majority rule yet Mr Smith had seen fit to leave out of his proposed reforms the four critical and emotional issues—urban housing, government education and health, and the common voters roll.

Capt Cook the second sails in with broken nose

Perth, Feb 25—A British yachtsman who is retracing the last voyage of Captain James Cook 200 years ago arrived in Australia in his storm-battered schooner today, recovering from a broken nose and three broken ribs.

Like his hero and namesake, Mr Gordon Cook was born in Whitby, Yorkshire. He intends to continue his journey after spending up to six weeks repairing his 23-metre boat Waveralker.

Mr Cook described how he broke his nose and ribs when he was swept overboard by a wave "so big that the sky went dark" near Amsterdam Island, in the Indian Ocean. He carried out emergency repairs at the island, but then encountered 20 days of sales on the voyage to Australia. The Waveralker finally had to be towed into Fremantle harbour.

"Captain Cook has been my hero since I was a boy, but you'll never get me to sail that southern Indian Ocean again," he said.

Mr Cook was met by his wife Mary and two children, Suzanne, aged eight, and Jonathan, seven. They were on board the Waveralker when the yacht was struck, but travelled to Australia by container ship. Mr Cook continued with a crew of two, Mr Lawrence Vigil, an American, and Mr Herbert Seiler, from Switzerland.

Mr Cook said he lost sight of the boat when he went overboard but "I was washed back on board because I had a life jacket and a line attached to the schooner."

Despite the repairs at Amsterdam Island, the diesel engine was not working properly and the vessel was taking in water. He had not slept for four days because he had been too busy pumping water from his boat.

"It took us a fortnight to do 700 miles," Mr Cook said.



Mr Cook reunited with his family after landing from his battered schooner, seen approaching Fremantle.

Finally, just out of Fremantle, they ran out of fuel and accepted a tow.

"I would rather have entered harbour in the dignified manner of Captain Cook but we were so tired," he said.

Mr Cook, who sold a hotel to raise £100,000 to build his boat four years ago, said it had been worth every penny "because my family and I love sailing."

The Cooks now hope to refit the 30-ton Waveralker and continue Captain Cook's voyage to Sydney, the Cook Islands, Tonga, Fiji, Tahiti, Christmas Island, Hawaii, San Francisco and Vancouver.

In the meantime Mr Cook intends to catch up on sleep and visit a nose specialist—Reuter and Agence France Presse.

Indian poet describes months in detention

From William Frankel Calcutta, Feb 25

The issue of political detainees is being exploited by both sides in the Indian election campaign. The opposition hammers away at the denial of human rights, the threat to democracy and the number of its supporters still held. The Government asserts that the arrests were essential in the emergency which had averted a threat to the nation's existence.

Mrs Gandhi went further in an interview with me, claiming that the opposition was actually helped by the public sympathy for released detainees.

Though the numbers are in dispute, political detainees are still held and to learn about detention from the detainees' point of view, I talked yesterday with Mr Jyoti Datta, a journalist and poet who was released from the Alipore Presidency jail on February 8.

He started a small literary magazine called *Kolkata* in the Bengali language in 1971. It was in no way political and Mr Datta told me he had never taken part in organized political activity.

Then came the emergency. Mr Datta said: "When the emergency was declared I thought it would blow over soon. When it went on for a while I was amazed that nobody was speaking up about it."

"So I published a special issue of *Kolkata* because when the press was gagged a magazine like ours had a duty to publish the facts—a summary

of news not printed in lists of people arrested activities of Sanjay Gandhi's son and an support of democracy.

"Three of us who had signed articles issue, believing ours be in danger of arrest underground on Sept 1975. We moved to countryside staying brief friends and sympathies continued to publish b traces and poetry."

After a year Mr Da his two colleagues were last September and war to police headquarters Calcutta.

"After that I was in Alipore Presidency jail conditions were quite able though I was but the time. I was inter almost daily at the Branch place. They where the presses we sought the names of the who had helped us. The some threats but no re sure."

"At the beginning I cell to myself, but to be colleagues I was moved own request to ward 13 There was no ill-treatment even some sympathy fr guards."

"Some in jail were a translators and the BB very important to us."

Mr Datta was finally one day. He said there about 600 political pris Alipore jail. He was only four who had released.

Caprivi Strip deaths claimed by Pretoria

From Our Correspondent Johannesburg, Feb 25

South African troops have killed 12 guerrillas in a clash in the western Caprivi Strip area of the South-West Africa (Namibia) battle zone, Defence headquarters claimed in Pretoria today.

The statement said three South African servicemen were wounded in the clash. It described a claim by the South West African People's Organisation (Swapo) earlier this week that its guerrillas had killed 25 South Africans in a battle in the strip as ridiculous.

In a separate announcement, the headquarters said Lieutenant Neil Liddell, aged 28, an Air Force pilot, had been killed in a skirmish "in the operational area". No other details were given, but it is thought likely his reconnaissance aircraft was hit by ground fire.

According to the Pretoria account of the ground clash in Caprivi, Swapo guerrillas met a South African patrol about 10 miles inside South-West African territory.

Brigadier David Eap said that apart from the 12 guerrillas killed "we deduce that many were wounded but cannot say how many". The attack in the strip might have been intended to be the beginning of a new front but it had been vigorously repulsed.

The western Caprivi is one of the most inhospitable areas of southern Africa. It is sparsely populated and is one of the last remaining zones of the continent where the scorching sun induces often fatal sleeping sickness, still flourishing.

Prison death: Mr Samuel Malunga, an African detained under the security laws, died this week of natural causes, according to a post-mortem report released in Pietermaritzburg.

Professor Ian Gordon, who performed the autopsy, said death was due to a long-standing illness. Mr Malunga, aged 45, was the seventeenth black officially reported to have died in detention in the past year.—Reuter.

US cuts aid over human rights issue

Washington, Feb 25—Mr Cyrus Vance, the Secretary of State, told a Senate committee yesterday that the Carter Administration had decided to cut foreign aid to Argentina, Uruguay and Ethiopia because of human rights violations in those countries.

But because security commitments were overriding, the United States would not reduce its aid to South Korea or other strategically placed allies whatever their violations of human rights.

It was the first time in memory that any administration had publicly announced a reduction in foreign aid because of human rights considerations. He told the Senate appropriations sub-committee that the aid programmes would probably total more than \$9,000m (£5,300m).

An official said that President Carter had received a special envoy from Romania who told him that Romanian leaders understood his concern about human rights.—New York Times News Service.

Lebanese Christians claim back their lost homes

From Robert Fisk Beirut, Feb 25

Three months after the end of the Lebanese civil war, President Sarkis is being faced with a series of demands from the Christian leadership to evict thousands of Palestinians from a village south of Beirut which was once inhabited by Christians.

Mr Camille Chamoun, the former President and leader of the National Liberal Party, whose militia fought alongside the Phalangists during the war, went to the presidential palace today to talk to Mr Sarkis about the village of Damour and the pressure from its former residents to return to their homes.

The question is a particularly sensitive one for Mr Sarkis, not only because it recalls the divisions of the months of warfare but because Damour—which was partially destroyed when Palestinian guerrillas drove out the Christian defenders early last year—is at present populated by hundreds of orphaned children and several thousand adult refugees who survived the 52-day siege of the Palestinian camp of Tel Zaatar in July.

Last autumn, Mr Yassir Arafat, the leader of the Palestinian resistance organisation, went to Damour to supervise the

resettlement there of the Palestinian refugees. A special school was opened for the children in the old Christian schoolyard where they are taught weapons training as well as more conventional scholastic subjects. Most of the ruined houses have been shored up with cement walls to form primitive habitations for the women from Tel Zaatar.

Mr Chamoun—whose own seat from home was looted and burnt out by the Palestinians a few miles from the village—has several times previously referred to the need to resettle Christians in Damour. But this is the first time he has taken the matter direct to Mr Sarkis.

It was Mr Chamoun's "young tigers" militia who took part in the siege of Tel Zaatar so the presidential audience today will be viewed somewhat cynically by the Palestinians. Nevertheless such pressures and demands are likely to increase in coming weeks as the Christian community, which lost much of its territory during the war, tries to increase its influence again in areas in which the Christians once lived.

All of which must make Mr Sarkis more than diplomatically anxious that any Middle East peace negotiations provide a home for Lebanon's 400,000 Palestinian refugees.

Jordan bars the good Samaritans

From Our Own Correspondent Jerusalem, Feb 25

Good deeds by Samaritans are still misunderstood in this part of the world. A delegation from the ancient sect, most of whose members live on the slopes of the sacred mountain Gerizim, has been refused permission to cross Allenby Bridge to Jordan to pay a condolence visit on the death of Queen Alia.

The Samaritans were apparently barred because they are regarded as Jewish, although the sect is pre-Davidic and bases its faith only on the Mosaic Law and the Book of Joshua. It has a high priest but no rabbi. The 250 Samaritans in the Nablus area were under Jordanian rule from 1948 to 1967; another 150 live near Tel Aviv.

Although they turned back the Samaritans, the Jordanian authorities have admitted for the first time a delegation of Arab Arabs. On their return, the Arabs said they had been given a cordial welcome. They had been received by King Hussein and Crown Prince Hassan, and had met Government leaders and intellectuals at conferences which discussed "ways of restoring relations with Arab kin and culture".

Illness robs opposition of man who draws crowds

Delhi, Feb 25—The Indian opposition suffered a blow in the election campaign today when its leading spokesman, Mr Jayaprakash Narayan, was taken to hospital with kidney trouble in Bombay. Doctors said he would have to cancel all engagements between now and the election, beginning on March 16.

Mr Narayan, aged 74, was an associate of Mahatma Gandhi and is known in India as "J.P.". He has drawn huge crowds to Janata Party rallies. He spent five months in solitary confinement under emergency laws imposed in 1975.

Doctors said his illness was the result of exhaustion and complications in treatment he undergoes on a kidney machine. He would be at least three weeks in hospital.

No other opposition leader can draw such crowds as the

freed from jail on grounds. He had lately to addressing crowds in chair.

His meetings raised fun the Janata Party, which is on the loose and transpo meeting in address in last week collected rupees (£1,800), mostly in of low denomination.

In an interview last Su Mr Narayan said his k failure and dialysis—tre with a kidney machine—takes seven hours a was affecting both his ge health and his memory. B had intended to continue pushing schedule of ar lion meeting one day, di the next.

The doctors said today Mr Narayan would be op on to rectify a defect valve in his leg used for sis.—Reuter.

British plea for Uganda inquiry fails to stir UN

From Our Correspondent Geneva, Feb 25

The British Government's quest for an investigation of human rights in Uganda has much the same effect in the United Nations Commission on Human Rights as a stone cast into a swamp.

In two days of secret discussions the request put to the 32-nation commission yesterday by Sir Keith Uvin, seems to have sunk into the depths of "procedure".

"No results so far," one delegate said, indicating that any vote had been postponed.

Representatives of the eight Third World countries in the commission met earlier today in an attempt to work out a common position.

They are believed to have agreed on some amiable text expressing the hope that, with a view to clarifying the situation, contacts can be developed between President Amin and Dr Kurt Waldheim, the United Nations secretary-general.

The commission's ineffectual performance—in which the Soviet Union has not found it necessary to intervene—may, ironically, improve the chances of its ultimate success. A recommendation, put to it last year by the sub-commission on prevention of discrimination and protection of minorities, for a study of the human rights situation in Uganda.

Carter envoy allays fears of Turkish Cypriots

From Our Correspondent Nicosia, Feb 25

Mr Clark Clifford, the American presidential envoy, believes there is a "definite possibility" of a Cyprus settlement this year.

Speaking in Nicosia after separate meetings yesterday with President Makarios and Mr Raif Denktaş, the Turkish Cypriot leader, he said both sides to the conflict wanted a settlement. There was a feeling "by the parties that the time has now come to put upon the table positive constructive suggestions so that there can be a basis for negotiation."

The most tangible result of the day's meetings appeared to be the placation of Turkish Cypriot fears that the Carter Administration was adopting a

pro-Greek stand in response to pressure from the Greek-American lobby.

Mr Clifford told a delegation of Turkish Cypriot refugees during his visit to the sector of Nicosia: "The United States will not give in to the whims of the Greek lobby."

Mr Denktaş, who had previously expressed reservations about the Clifford mission, appeared contented.

The Greek Cypriot side argued that the dispute arises from the Turkish invasion in the summer of 1974. Mr Clifford wittingly or otherwise satisfied Turkish Cypriot sensibilities by speaking of "the difficulties that both sides have endured over the past 13 years", since the disturbances of December, 1963.

Jordan peace plan agreed by Rabin party

From Moshe Brilliant Tel Aviv, Feb 25

The ruling Labour Party's four-day national convention closed today after adopting an election platform softening the party's stand regarding peace with Jordan.

For the first time it specifically endorsed returning some occupied territories to the Jordanians in a peace settlement, a policy espoused by government leaders for some time.

In effect, it also barred further Jewish settlement in sections of the occupied West Bank likely to be restored to Jordanians.

Mr Moshe Dayan, the former Minister, fought an unsuccessful rearguard action for the hardliners.

Hitherto Labour's election programmes expressed readiness for territorial concessions in exchange for peace but refrained from stating on which fronts in consideration of the views of Israelis who claim the West Bank is part of the ancestral homeland and is not negotiable. The new formula mentions specifically Egypt, Jordan and Syria.

In brief

OAU rebuffed by Morocco

Rabat, Feb 25—Morocco has decided to "suspend all participation" in the Organization of African Unity (OAU) in protest against allegations that Morocco was involved in an attempted coup in Beir last month.

"These lying accusations" had been allowed to circulate irresponsibly at the meeting of OAU ministers in Lomé, Dr Ahmed Laraki, the Moroccan Foreign Minister, said. Beir's political instability was "provoked by its innumerable plots being useful alibis to eliminate opponents."

Triumphant right

San Salvador, Feb 25—General Carlos Romero, the candidate of the ruling right-wing National Conciliation Party and former Defence Minister, won El Salvador's presidential election against his centre-left coalition opponent.

Two beheaded

Riyadh, Feb 25—Two men were publicly beheaded after Friday prayers here for allegedly assaulting a boy they had kidnapped from a nearby village.

Hijacker jailed

Detroit, Feb 25—Richard F. Dixon, aged 37, was sentenced to 40 years in prison for hijacking a Boeing 727 over the United States in 1971 and forcing it to land in Cuba.

Spacemen back

Moscow, Feb 25—Two Soviet cosmonauts landed safely in Kazakhstan after 18 days in orbit in the Salyut 5 space laboratory.

Sri Lanka poll

Colombo, Feb 25—Mrs Bandaranaike, Sri Lanka's Prime Minister, said a general election would be held within the next six months.

Buenos Aires daily attacks 'The Times' over Falklands

From Our Correspondent Buenos Aires, Feb 25

An Argentine newspaper, recently closed for two days for publishing an article on alleged human rights violations here, today took issue with *The Times* for saying that Britain should not negotiate on the Falkland Islands with an Argentine Government responsible for such violations.

The independent Buenos Aires daily *La Opinion* said a recent leading article in *The Times* did not objectively reflect the situation in Argentina.

It also accused *The Times* of mounting a "destabilization" campaign against the Labour Government in Britain.

Referring to recent allegations of CIA payments to world leaders as an attempt to "de-

Mother's vigil outside Soviet Embassy

By a Staff Reporter

Dr Marina Volkonskaya, Soviet physician, who was born in Britain four years ago, held a vigil outside the Soviet Embassy in London yesterday to mark the eleventh birthday of her only son Misha who has been refused permission to emigrate to the West.

Dr Volkonskaya used to live in the Leningrad hospital where several Russian dissidents, including Mr Valeriy Solov'yev and Mr Vladimir Solov'yev, have been treated.

She was joined in her vigil by members of the "For Peace in the Internation" group, including Tom Stoppard, playwright.

Third...

Crystal Palace
Grimsby v
Northampton
Preston v
Reading v
Sheff Wed v
Sunderland v
Walsley v
Wolves v
York City v

Fishing revives Tokyo dispute with Moscow

From Peter Hazelhurst Tokyo, Feb 25

Tokyo and Moscow were embroiled in a new territorial dispute today after the Japanese Government's refusal to recognize the Soviet decision to impose a 200-mile fishing zone around four former Japanese islands occupied by Soviet troops at the end of the Second World War.

The 30-year-old dispute over the ownership of the islands of Habomai, Shikotan, Kunashiri and Etorofu in the Sea of Okhotsk was revived today, when Mr Takeo Fukuda, the Prime Minister, called an urgent meeting of senior members of

the Cabinet to review Moscow's decision.

According to Japanese officials, both Mr Fukuda and Mr Ichiro Hoteyama, the Foreign Minister, criticized Moscow's decision "as an unfriendly and regrettable act."

As the meeting adjourned, Mr Susao Sonoda, the chief Cabinet secretary, said: "It is regretted that the Soviet Union has taken a unilateral step to include Japan's four northern islands within the Soviet Union's new 200-mile fishing zone. The Government of Japan cannot accept the decision."

The controversy was sharpened by a Japanese declaration

earlier this month that new legislation, extending the country's coastal zone from three to 12 miles, will encompass the four disputed islands.

In a counter move, Tass announced yesterday that Moscow's new 200-mile zone will incorporate areas surrounding the four former Japanese islands on February 3.

The disputed islands are the main stumbling block in the negotiations on a peace treaty between Moscow and Tokyo. Japan has steadfastly maintained that the islands must be returned before the signing of a peace and friendship treaty with Moscow. The Soviet Union

on the other hand is claiming territorial rights over the islands which are being used as forward observation posts to monitor Japanese and American military activity in the region.

The dispute is also likely to mar negotiations on fishing due to start in Moscow next week. According to officials in Tokyo, the Japanese delegation will attempt to separate the territorial dispute from the negotiations on the future rights of Japanese fishing boats in Soviet waters.

It is feared that the Soviet Union will insist on a package deal that will enforce Moscow's claim to the islands.

Third...

Crystal Palace

Grimsby v

Northampton

Preston v

Reading v

Sheff Wed v

Sunderland v

Walsley v

Wolves v

York City v

Fourth...

Crystal Palace

Grimsby v

Northampton

Preston v

Reading v

Sheff Wed v

Sunderland v

Walsley v

Wolves v

York City v

هكذا من الاصل

ing-dong likely down at the Dell



Gemmill: rushed to hospital after colliding with a reserve defender and fracturing his skull during training.

Derby County who play Black-burn Rovers. After playing and reading of his imminent replacement by Brian Clough, the club's manager, Gemmill was yesterday thought to be out with a knee injury, but he was brought back to the training ground by a reserve defender and fractured his skull during training.

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Rugby Union

Sllemen doubtful but Lancashire are not

By Peter West
Rugby Correspondent

Lancashire may have to do without Michael Sllemen, their England international, when they play Middlesex in the final of the rugby county championship at Runcorn on Saturday (2.30). The Lancashire winger has been injured in the French match last Saturday, and John Curran, the Orrell and British Students player, is standing in for him.

Roger Greed, an excellent Lancashire skipper, believes that, with or without Sllemen, their team spirit and organization will take them through to a tenth title, but they do not believe that, because they put out the champions, Gloucestershire, in the semi-final round, they are all but home and dry. Lancashire's record in the final on the Waterloo ground is not an especially happy one, and they must have a healthy respect for the lineout potential of a Middlesex side which includes three very tall men in Ralston and Howcroft, the locks, and Ripley, the No. 8. However, the Wales 8 international, is all of 5ft 7in tall.

Ralston was an up and coming young forward when Middlesex won the title round on the same ground in 1956. The Lancashire lock, Trickey, is the only other survivor from that encounter, when the Middlesex full-back was Gordon Macdonald of London Scottish. Macdonald has been the Middlesex coach for the past 10 years and has won the title twice in exactly 50 years.

Two more first division clubs will depart the drama today. Middlesex must feel confident of beating Arsenal. But the tussle between Leeds United and Manchester City at Elland Road is a predictable and more rare would put it in jeopardy. An inspection is being held at Elland Road this morning.

In spite of their formidable record, Liverpool continue to field unchanged teams and they hope that today's tie against Oldham at Anfield will be their last. Liverpool have been unbeaten in 10 matches, and they are confident that they will win today's game. Liverpool have been unbeaten in 10 matches, and they are confident that they will win today's game.

Athletics

A close run thing in prospect at Cosford

By Cliff Temple
Athletics Correspondent

Even without Stewart and Kenna, victory for Britain's women athletes in today's indoor international match against France at RAF Cosford (1.45) seems a distinct possibility. The British men are bringing out their top stars of the season, including Geoffrey Capes and Sebastian Coe, but they may have a harder task to avoid their fourth international defeat this month.

Yet the challenge does not look as daunting as it did this time last week when West Germany in Dortmund, a match which was lost only narrowly. A little of the inspiration so apparent there could turn the tables today. Britain are likely to dominate the 3,000 metres, through Ray Stedley and Richard Milne, and the short put, where Capes and Michael Welch are currently in excellent form. The French look equally likely to dominate the 100 metres hurdles, so much will depend on close events like the 60 metres. More hundreds of a second separate the teams recorded by the British sprinters, Hill and Hoyt, in Dortmund, and those of the French, who were in the lead in the French championships at Orleans, also held last weekend. The event could swing eight points to three either way.

In the 400 metres, Glen Cohen, back on his home track, seeks his fourth international victory in the national women's cross-country championships at Stoke-on-Trent today, and, as reigning northern champion, her chances of qualifying for England's team to compete in the international cross-country championships at Düsseldorf on March 20 must be high. She should be absent from Monday for the European indoor championships in San Sebastian. She has already done enough.

Hockey

Germans hold Trump and aces for indoor event

By Sydney Friskin

West Germany, the European indoor hockey champions, are competing against Wales and England in a three-nations tournament, sponsored by Sun Life Assurance, at the Whitechapel Sports Centre, today and tomorrow. Each team will play the other twice.

This event clashes with a priority outdoor commitment, the England team, which is playing Wales at Crystal Palace, which means that a few players who might have been available in the indoor side are unavailable. The England team is West Germany, where the national (outdoor) leagues come to a halt for about three months in the winter to enable the players to go on to play for their clubs in the outdoor national side.

The Germans have made a couple of late changes because they have been able to bring back players who have been without them since they should be both England and Wales. But there is no better way for home countries to improve than to meet opposition of this class.

Squash rackets

Scully stops an Army clean sweep

By Rex Bellamy
Squash Rackets Correspondent

The Army won the inter-services squash rackets championship for the third year in a row by beating the Royal Air Force 4-1 at Uxbridge yesterday, having won by a similar margin against the Royal Navy a week earlier. As they have a relatively young team, sharpened by the presence of three internationals, the Army's hold on the championship looks reasonably secure.

The RAF, already two matches and eight games down, had a brief flicker of hope when Scully took the first game from Sharkey, while next door, Stokes was poised on game ball against Stewart. But that was as far as Stokes could go and the Army were 4-0 up when Scully, the southerly player in the last of many games, came back to win the fifth and final game.

Mrs McKay fingers only 11 minutes

Heather McKay began her quest for a sixteenth consecutive British women's open squash title with an 11-minute first round victory over Pat Green, at Wembley last night.

The 35-year-old Australian professional, having a long career as well as her domestic title, has been a steady presence in the women's open, a Sturges-based Scot, 9-0, 9-0, 9-0.

Miss Green, aged 28, broke Mrs McKay's service only four times in the entire match. She seemed overawed having a court with the world champion, who has not been defeated since 1962.

Mrs McKay said that she had regained her appetite for the game after having a considerable rest. "I am as keen now as ever and I expect to face rather more difficult opposition as the tournament progresses."

New Zealand settle down on all-weather pitch

By Joyce Whitehead

The Netherlands, New Zealand and Ireland all won their matches yesterday in the two-day women's international hockey tournament at Manchester University sports ground as the grass pitches at the cricket ground were still too wet under water. The 3 teams from the home countries are joined this year by the Netherlands and New Zealand.

New Zealand had the unusual experience of playing on a hard pitch and beat Wales 2-0 with a goal in each half. P. Lunn scored the first goal in the first half, while the second was scored by G. Jones and M. Williams, playing hard and cutting off many New Zealand passes in the driving snow, the Welsh goalkeeper, I. Davies, was sold a dummy. She watched the set-up for a hand-pass and the ball was sent to a different player and J. Phillips scored New Zealand's second goal.

Tennis

DETROIT: Miss V. Novak (South Africa) beat Miss S. Storch (Netherlands) 6-0, 6-0, 6-0, in the first round of the women's open tennis tournament at Wembley last night.

Miss Novak, a 1966 Wimbledon champion, was the only player to win all three sets in the first round. She was the only player to win all three sets in the first round.

Skating

Hinterseer's first World Cup victory of season

Furano, Japan, Feb 25.—Hans Hinterseer, of Austria, emerged from the shadows of his compatriot, Klaus Heidegger, to score his first victory of the season in a men's World Cup slalom race today. Hinterseer, 27, who has won the 1976 slalom, was the only man to win all three races in the slalom series.

Hinterseer, 27, who has won the 1976 slalom, was the only man to win all three races in the slalom series.

Rugby Union

County Championship: Final

Lancashire (at Runcorn) 2-0. Middlesex (at Twickenham) 2-0.

Welsh Cup: Fourth round: Newport (at Cardiff) 2-0. Cardiff (at Newport) 2-0.

Inter-Services: Tournament: Navy v RAF (at Twickenham) 2-0.

Club matches: Aberystwyth v Walsley (2.30). Walsley v Aberystwyth (2.30). Walsley v Aberystwyth (2.30).

Latest European snow reports

Country	Depth (cm)	Conditions	Weather
France	170-200	Good	Snow
Germany	100-150	Good	Snow
Italy	50-100	Good	Snow
Spain	20-50	Good	Snow
Sweden	10-20	Good	Snow
Switzerland	10-20	Good	Snow
UK	10-20	Good	Snow

Sexton seeking greater midfield industry

By Norman Fox

Stan Bowles, the England forward, has been dropped by Queens Park Rangers for today's home match with Leicester City. After a disappointing performance in last Tuesday's League Cup semi-final round tie against Aston Villa, the manager, David Sexton, has decided to turn both Bowles and Masson, a midfield player who had played 64 consecutive league games. Possibly both players will be spurred into greater effort in next week's UEFA Cup tie with AEL Athens.

Rangers, though they are left in European competition, are still in a precarious league position that is exaggerated by their number of matches in hand. Two strong players are brought into today's game, including Kelly, indicating that Mr Sexton will be looking for greater midfield industry than was seen in midweek.

With only the Arsenal left in the Cup, this afternoon's first division games have three London clubs in action—all of them struggling to escape from the clutches of relegation. As well as Rangers, West Ham United and Tottenham Hotspur are in urgent need of points.

Point that could prove vital for Hereford

By Michael Archer

Hereford United, rooted at the bottom of the second division and without a win since November, should have ended their season at The Valley. They did quite enough to have won and to suggest that their relegation to the third division is no longer a formality. Charlton only saved their faces with a late equaliser.

As they successfully looked up Charlton's confidence grew. In fact by half-time they had earned seven corners to Charlton's four, but twice as many close to taking the lead.

When Hereford at last produced their goal after a minute's wait, it was a gift. Carter's cross was completely missed by Charlton, leaving Hereford with a comparatively simple chance which he gratefully lashed in. He then ran fully 60 yards to meet McNulty with this and a good near post header again from Spence.

Yesterday's results

Second division: Charlton (0) v Hereford (0), 0-0. Hereford (0) v Charlton (0), 0-0.

Fourth division: Southend (1) v Hartlepool (0), 1-0. Hartlepool (0) v Southend (1), 0-1.

Scottish Cup: Aberdeen (0) v Dundee (0), 0-0. Dundee (0) v Aberdeen (0), 0-0.

Tomorrow

Football: Fourth round: Celtic v Arsenal (at Highbury) 2.00. Arsenal v Celtic (at Highbury) 2.00.

Rugby Union: County Championship: Final: Lancashire (at Runcorn) 2.30. Middlesex (at Twickenham) 2.30.

Inter-Services: Tournament: Navy v RAF (at Twickenham) 2.45.

Third division

Chesham v Sheffield W (3.15). Crystal P v Peterboro'. Grimsby v Oxford U. Northampton v Shrewsbury. Portsmouth v Gillingham. Reading v Bury. Rotherham v Preston NE. Swindon v Lincoln. Walsall v Wrexham. York C v Brighton.

Scottish Cup

Fourth round: Aberdeen (0) v Dundee (0), 0-0. Dundee (0) v Aberdeen (0), 0-0.

Scottish premier division: Dundee U v Partick T (postponed).

Scottish first division: Montrose v Airdrie. Raith R v Falkirk.

Rugby Union

County Championship: Final: Lancashire (at Runcorn) 2.30. Middlesex (at Twickenham) 2.30.

Welsh Cup: Fourth round: Newport (at Cardiff) 2.00. Cardiff (at Newport) 2.00.

Inter-Services: Tournament: Navy v RAF (at Twickenham) 2.45.

Fourth division

Aldershot v Newport. Barnley v Stockport. Bournemouth v Cambridge U. Bradford C v Torquay. Crewe v Colchester. Doncaster v Swansea. Exeter v Halifax. Huddersfield v Darlington. Watford v Rochdale. Worthington v Scunthorpe.

Scottish premier division

Dundee U v Partick T (postponed).

Scottish first division: Montrose v Airdrie. Raith R v Falkirk.

Scottish second division: Berwick v Dunfermline. Brechin v Meadowbank. Clyde v Stranraer. Cowdenbeath v Stirling A. E. Stirling v Forfar. Stenhousemuir v Queen's Park.

Rugby League

County Championship: Final: Lancashire (at Runcorn) 2.30. Middlesex (at Twickenham) 2.30.

Welsh Cup: Fourth round: Newport (at Cardiff) 2.00. Cardiff (at Newport) 2.00.

Inter-Services: Tournament: Navy v RAF (at Twickenham) 2.45.

SPORT

Cricket

Authority of Lille stamped five times

Auckland, Feb 25.—Dennis Lillee returned to top form here today to top Australia firmly on top after the first day of the second Test match against New Zealand. New Zealand were dismissed for only 229 runs in their first innings at the close, with Lillee stamping his personal authority on the day's play by taking five wickets, including his 150th Test wicket, and making an important catch.

Lillee, who has been bothered by injury, ended with five wickets for 51 off 17.3 overs and also scored an important breakthrough by holding a superb catch on the boundary to dismiss Edwards, who had been tearing the Australian attack apart.

New Zealand got off to a bad start when Turner, their captain, fell in only the second over, but Geoffrey Howarth and Congdon consolidated the innings with a second-wicket stand of 57. It ended when Congdon was caught behind, off Lillee, for 25. Howarth went on to score a fine 59 before falling to Lillee.

The period after lunch proved disastrous for the home team when they lost three of their top-order batsmen in the space of nine runs. At tea New Zealand were in trouble at 142 for five. But Edwards, New Zealand's new wicketkeeper, gave the large crowd something to cheer about after the interval with a magnificent innings of 59 in 56 minutes. He hit 11 boundaries in a thrilling six-wicket stand of 56 with Richard Hadlee, the last man out, held on defiantly for a valuable 44, the tall and steadily declined after Edwards' departure. Despite New Zealand's modest total, the Australian captain, Chappell, was disappointed that his team did not make an earlier breakthrough after asking New Zealand to bat.

"The chance was there for us to bowl them out quickly," he said. "We did not get the complete breakthrough, but I don't think we lost anything by bowling first." New Zealand have Peterkin, an off-spin bowler, in their team in place of Dayle Hadlee, who is medium fast.



Lillee: back to his tigerish best with his 150th Test wicket.

able 44, the tall and steadily declined after Edwards' departure. Despite New Zealand's modest total, the Australian captain, Chappell, was disappointed that his team did not make an earlier breakthrough after asking New Zealand to bat.

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Boycott lectures Australians on etiquette

Sydney, Feb 25.—Geoffrey Boycott today castigated the Australian players' reaction to an umpire's ruling in the first Test match against New Zealand in Christchurch.

The Australians obviously thought that Glenn Turner, the New Zealand captain, was out when he survived a confident appeal for a catch in the slip by McCosker off Lillee. Turner said it was stressed to him "in Australian terms" that he should have walked.

Australians "are the world's worst when it comes to walking", he wrote. "The Australian team, though undoubtedly talented in playing skills, need to have a few subtleties of the game spelt out to them."

The outburst by McCosker and Lillee over the alleged dismissal of Kiwi skipper Glenn Turner on Tuesday is nothing short of pathetic, says the Australian captain.

Down among the deadly men of bowling the toast is Croft and Garner

Two go aplundering in the Caribbean

From Terry Williams
Bridgetown, Feb 25
Coca Croft wanted to be a wicketkeeper until the day the fast bowler failed to turn up for his side in Guyana. When we saw he wasn't coming I just picked up the ball and bowled. I got seven wickets," Croft said shortly after taking another seven wickets, but this time for West Indies against Pakistan in the first Test match here.

Croft, aged 23, and Joel Garner, aged 24, of Barbados, are the latest additions to West Indies' formidable battery of fast bowlers. Though they lack the experience of the men they replaced in the Test—Michael Holding, of Jamaica, and Wayne Daniel, Barbados—they took 13 Pakistani wickets between them in the first Test, which ended in a draw on Wednesday.

"They blended into the side beautifully. They did everything we expected of them," Clive Lloyd, the West Indian captain, said after the match.

At the beginning of the season, Croft, an traffic controller, and Garner, who turned professional last summer, were just two of a number of fast bowlers scattered about the island here.

President's XI earlier this month. Suddenly everyone was equating them with Holding, Daniel, Andy Roberts and Vasbotten, who destroyed England last summer.

When Holding and Daniel pulled out of the Test here with injuries they were the natural choices to fill the vacant fast bowling places. Now that Holding is hurt, it looks as though Pakistan will see a lot of the two new men in this series.

Croft is big and brawny, built rather like that other great West Indian fast bowler, Wes Hall. But next to Garner he is tiny. Garner, who is 5'10", is a natural fast bowler. He has the fast ball and the slower ball, and he has the experience of the men they replaced in the Test—Michael Holding, of Jamaica, and Wayne Daniel, Barbados—they took 13 Pakistani wickets between them in the first Test, which ended in a draw on Wednesday.

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Cambridge lents

	YEDERS	
	W & J YAMM	
	DOWNING	
	DEWITS	
	QUEEN	
	MACALAN	
	SHAMUEL	
	SHIMM	
	CHURCHILL	
	CLARK	
II.	CLARK II	
	CLARK MARGARET II	
	THIRTY HALL II	
	KINGS	
	CORPUS CHRISTI	
	KEUS II	
	OLDSWY II	
	PETERBOROUGH	
	ESKENDALE II	
	FITZVILLAM II	
	MARGARET II	
	I & 2d THIRTY II	
	LANT MARGARET II	
	CHURCH II	
III.	SLAWEN II	
	CHRIST II	
	FEARNOKE II	
	SINDEY SUXE II	
	KEUS II	
	ST CATHERINE'S II	
	PETERBOROUGH II	
	CLARK II	
	I & 2d THIRTY II	
	I & 3d THIRTY II	
	KEUS II	
	LAST MARGARET IV	
	KEUS IV	
	CHRIST II	
IV.	CHURCHILL III	
	KINGS	
	KINGS II	
	DOWNING III	
	CHURCHILL IV	
	FEARNOKE III	
	CLARK III	
	QUEEN III	
	THIRTY HALL III	
	MARGARET III	
	PETERBOROUGH III	
	CORPUS CHRISTI III	
	ST CATHERINE'S III	
	CHURCHILL V	
	ROMANES III	
	WINDHAM III	
	SINDEY SUXE III	
V.	SLAWEN III	
	WINDHAM	
	SLAWEN IV	
	I & 2d THIRTY V	
	DOWNING IV	
	LAST MARGARET V	
	THIRTY HALL V	
	ST EDMUND'S IV	
	SINDEY SUXE IV	
	FEARNOKE IV	
	PETERBOROUGH IV	
	FITZVILLAM IV	
	CLARK IV	
	SLAWEN V	
	CLARK IV	
WOMEN		
	NEW HALL	
	WINDHAM	
	WINDHAM II	
	CLARK	
	NEWBURN II	
	CLARK (KINGS)	
	NEW HALL II	
	WINDHAM	
	CRISTON	
	THIRTY (SLAWEN	
	WILSON	
	SLAWEN	
	GUTHRIE II	
	NEWBURN III	
	WINDHAM III	
	NEWBURN IV	

THE TIMES
SATURDAY REVIEW
SATURDAY FEBRUARY 26 1977

Golden Days

by John Gielgud

Below: Sacha Guitry (right) with Lucien Guitry and Yvonne Printemps in 'Mon Père' at the Porte St Martin

in the early 1920s that the Lucien and Sacha, father and son, appeared in London with a charming leading lady, Yvonne Printemps, giving a short season of operetta under the banner of C. B. They were acclaimed by the public. Lucien made a tremendous impression in *Pastor*, a play which he delivered a long lecture, addressing the theatre as if they were students. My parents saw this performance to me in the end but I was not lucky to see it myself.

I have a most vivid recollection of Lucien's acting in a drama *Le Tourquet*, in which he played a young man who strangled his mistress in the final scene. It was the last act that impressed me. The scene was a hotel bedroom where he had a girl for a weekend. As he lay on the bed, she lay on the floor, suddenly strangled from his neck. He cried "Oh! You frightened me for a few moments, only perhaps—he seemed to grow inches taller and became more and more terrifying. Then, suddenly breaking into a completely charming manner for the scene, I watched him most and I am convinced that in his absolute stillness and the control of his concentrated imagination, controlled and executed with great technique, produced on the girl and on the audience an extraordinary and unforgettable memory. I had seen a great

was evidently a tremendous act on and off the stage. It was that he could eat 12 dozen eggs after a performance. He was not beforehand. And I saw a film of contemporary celebrities including Renoir, Monet and Picasso called *Paris 1900*, compiled by a Frenchman, which included a fine close-up of a man wearing a wide slouch hat and an eye glass dangled from the brim by a narrow cord. He and his son were great affecting figures, in fur coats and elegant walk-ers, obviously proud to be recognised as the great personalities they were. He was enormously talented and turned out dozens of plays, operettas over the years, directing and acting in most of them. Yvonne Printemps, I think, to have been Lucien's first wife. Whether this was or not, not long after his father's death, he married Sacha and returned many times to delight Londoners with his artfully contrived showmen's both off and on stage.

Printemps was a soubrette, slim, elegant figure, appealing eyes, and a broad turned-out mouth, not unlike that of our own Lawrence, and her acting was of the same inimitable, impish sentimental comedy. Like Gertrude Lawrence, whose voice, fascinating though it was, was distinctly unreliable and Printemps' tones were delicate and true. She was as tempted, perhaps, to prop notes unduly in order to her brilliant breath-control, which rather too easily to de-fer encores. But in *Mozart* (for her songs had been composed by Franz Lehar) she was ravishingly youthful and in her powdered wig, black feathers and buckled shoes, Sacha hovered over her with authority, not attempting to sing himself, but contributing a flowing, rhythmic accompaniment to his speeches, delivered in a strong voice.

In another play with music, *Le Tsar*, Sacha, as the Emperor Napoleon III, sat in a stage box, seen by the curtains, his great legs in their white kid gloves, as he stood on the stage with-ge; while in the dressing room he followed, she parried his as in captivating rousades as mured, in baffled tones of treachery "venez souper avec

gramophone records of his, especially some excerpts *Les Trois Valses* which un-der she never played in London. I give us nostalgic memories of a quality as a singer. In Coward's *Conversation Piece* he wrote specially for her, and she played with success both in London and New York, she had to her part in English, parrot and was considerably ed by her difficulty with the ge, though her best scene at max of the operetta was sung ich.

s only near her once, when she itry were guests of honour on their annual visits, at a dinner-given (rather improbably) by students of the RADA. I timidly ed towards the high table where as sitting, beautifully gowned and jewelled, but Sacha seated her, guessed my impertinence on and growled imperiously me ne danse pas", at which I bowed myself away with my tween my legs.

Sacha was obsessively jealous as band he was also a notorious man, and married again several after Yvonne Printemps finally m to elope with the actor Pierre y. But she was evidently no less id to be somewhat possessive. f, since she insisted that Fresnoy never kiss another woman on age after they were married, e obediently resigned himself to g saints, priests and confirmed lora for the rest of his distin-d career.

I met Sacha on one occasion. arch 1939 Peggy Ashcroft and I

were invited to appear at a gala, to celebrate the state visit of the French President M. M. Lebrun, in the balcony scene from *Romeo and Juliet*, part of an entertainment to be given at the Foreign Office in London, the courtyard of which had been covered over and transformed into a theatre for the occasion. It was a tremendous affair, the last of its kind before the war, and I could not help referring to it afterwards as the Duchess of Richmond's Ball. There was a magnificent profusion of flowers, sent from Sir Philip Sassoon's garden at Lympne, masses of azaleas edging the balconies and a positive thicket of madonna lilies dividing the stage from the auditorium.

Before the performance the guests—glittering with tiaras, long gloves and hats for the women, and uniforms, medals and sashes for the men—distributed themselves on small gift chairs. Everyone rose as the royal family entered by different doors, Queen Mary from one, the Duke and Duchess of Kent from another, and lastly the King and Queen, who conducted the President and his suite (which included the nefarious M. Laval) to their armchairs in the front row. We actors dragged ourselves reluctantly away from the 'peep holes' in the curtain and the entertainment began.

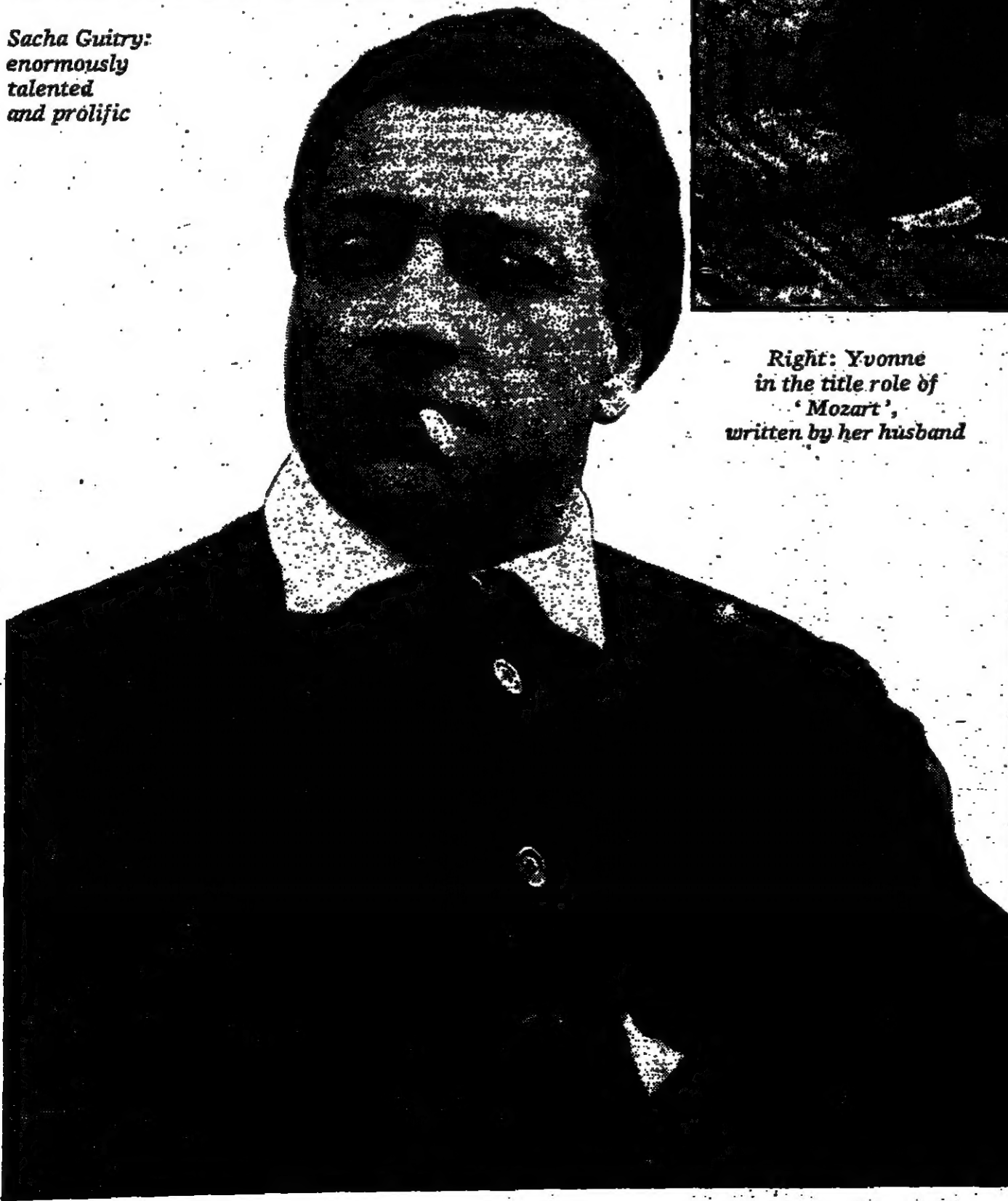
It was a long and somewhat patchy programme, as is usual on such occasions. The audience, exhausted by a long day of official functions—a visit to Windsor, the National Gallery, and a state banquet to follow—became increasingly restive in their tight clothes. Several elderly gentlemen seemed to be in some danger of falling asleep and slipping off their chairs, and we did not feel that our Shakespeare excerpt was very successful, no doubt we were somewhat inaudible, but we were politely received. Edith Evans appeared with a group of

distinguished actresses representing the wines of France. The most strikingly effective moment was the entrance of a band of Scottish Pipers, magnificently kilted and bonneted, who swung on to the small stage with a great swirl of bagpipes, marched round it and swung grandly off again. Everybody woke up and applauded vigorously for the first time.

Sacha Guitry had been invited to appear with Seymour Hicks in a sketch written by them both—Hicks was a great admirer of Sacha and had acted in English versions of several of his plays. The humour of their joint endeavour lay in attempts by Sacha to speak English and Hicks to reply in French, but both actors were exceedingly nervous and obviously under-rehearsed. I watched them from the wings as they kept drying up and killing each other's laughs, which were not very plentiful in any case. Appearing with them was Sacha's latest wife, Genevieve Sererville, an extremely young and pretty girl. At the morning rehearsal Peggy and I had been asked to come on to the stage to be introduced to the distinguished visitors. Mlle Sererville was dressed in a very short skirt, and her stockings were rolled below the knees like a footballer's, showing a considerable expanse of thigh. We stammered a few polite words in our somewhat halting French, to which M. Guitry, magnificent with his fur collar and gold-tipped cane, made suitably gracious acknowledgement. As we moved away to find our dressing rooms I ventured to remark to Hicks "I say, Sir, that's a remarkably attractive girl with M. Guitry, don't you think?" And was rewarded by the trenchant comment "try acting with her, old boy, it's the cabman's goodbye."

© Times Newspapers

Sacha Guitry: enormously talented and prolific



Right: Yvonne in the title role of 'Mozart', written by her husband



What the critics said

about two notable recent HMV releases

VIVALDI: THE FOUR SEASONS
ITZHAK PERLMAN
 London Philharmonic Orchestra
 Itzhak Perlman, filling the dual role of soloist and conductor, imprints a deeply musical authority on the performance. From the London Philharmonic he draws strong playing of refinement, precision and where necessary, eloquence. As a soloist Perlman cannot be faulted. The recording has fine balance and warm sonority. Certainly this issue takes its place among the best of this much-courted work.
RECORDS AND RECORDINGS
 ASD 3283 stereo/mono/epic. Also available on tape cassette

BOHUS CRISTOFF: BORIS GODUNOV / BORIS CRISTOFF
 Chorus Russia et Paris, French National Radio Orchestra
ESSAY DORONEN
 For me there is only one Boris, the magnificent Cristoff. The intensity of his performance, together with a mastery of vocal colouring that amounts to genius, makes his Boris the definitive one of our time.
RECORDS AND RECORDING
 ASD 3507 2 (4 records) 29.95



Memories of the grand life in the vast treasure chest of Mentmore

An excerpt from an unpublished manuscript by the Marchioness of Crewe (b 1881, d 1967) describing the various houses in which she had lived. Lady Crewe was the younger daughter of the 5th Earl of Rosebery, who was Prime Minister towards the end of Queen Victoria's reign.

When my mother married my father in 1878 both her parents were dead. As their only child she was thus, through inheritance, the owner of Mentmore at the time of her marriage. This house played a great part in the lives of both my parents but we, as children, never spent very long there. We looked on any sojourn in Buckinghamshire as a "visit"; Dalmeny was our home.

My mother's father was the youngest of the four sons of N. M. Rothschild, founder of the English branch of the Rothschild family. Until his father's death my grandfather had worked as a partner in the family banking business. When, however, the management of the firm devolved on his eldest brother, Lionel, my grandfather began to devote more and more time to collecting works of art—and race horses—and less and less to banking.

In 1840 he began to buy land at Mentmore, and ten years later he engaged Sir Joseph Paxton as the architect of the house he proposed to build there for himself and his bride. The foundations were already laid when on New Year's Eve, 1851, my mother as a baby of five months old managed, it seems, to lay a commemorative

stone in the rising walls of the house. It seems incredible in these days that such a vast building could have been put up for a cost of little more than £15,000—but so it was. But let us waste no time in considering the economics of building in Mid-Victorian days; let us plunge, rather, into the interior of Mentmore.

It is difficult to describe this house as it appeared to the eyes of a small child; a riot of beauty and richness was everywhere; carving, embroidery, marquetry and bronzes dazzled and bewildered senses accustomed to the sobrieties of a Scottish nursery. On either side of the great central hall were high doors of glass in narrow walnut frames. Through one door could be seen the broad marble staircase of shallow steps leading up to a landing, on which stood scarlet chairs of state on either side of a pedestal surmounted by a marble head.

Through the doors at the other end of this huge room more marble steps were visible; these led down to the South Entrance and so on to the terrace. On the right, the large hall shared with Sir Geoffrey their claims on my children's attention, and it was many years before I learned to look with appreciation at the greater works of art surrounding them.

In the gallery—our usual vantage point—hung large Venetian mirrors and under these were high-backed chairs covered in cream coloured satin which was heavily braided and fringed. Over the satin were

baisters of the gallery which surrounded it. But I can remember one day standing in the centre of the hall, alone, and consciously trying to consider its appearance. Under my feet lay an enormous Savonnerie carpet, cut about in the time of the French Revolution and later sewn together again in rather a haphazard way. High overhead were the three gilt lanterns which had once swung from the sterna of the Baccantur in which the Duke had been rowed out for the annual wedding of Venice to the sea. I remember wondering if they missed the bright foam of the Adriatic in their present dusty splendour.

At the end of the hall stood a gigantic black marble fireplace, supported by two white marble rams. Although I had been told that it had been designed by Rubens, and indeed came to Mentmore from his house in Antwerp, my eyes were more attracted by the silver life-size figure of the dwarf, Sir Geoffrey Hudson, which stood on its top. Many queer-shaped golden clocks stood on a table in one corner of the room; they and an Arabic lamp shared with Sir Geoffrey their claims on my children's attention, and it was many years before I learned to look with appreciation at the greater works of art surrounding them.

In the gallery—our usual vantage point—hung large Venetian mirrors and under these were high-backed chairs covered in cream coloured satin which was heavily braided and fringed. Over the satin were

loose covers of Spanish leather, and I remember the fascination of discovering the many-coloured fringes and silken knots I had only felt, and hardly guessed at, through the enveloping leather. At night a new and different beauty filled the hall. The great brocade curtains were drawn and the crimson silk was reflected in the shimmering light thrown off from marble, bronze and glowing wood. The whole room was illuminated by the torches jutting out from each corner. I remember the "plop" of each gas jet as it was lit by a long wax taper, held out, at arm's length by a man craning over the gallery balustrade.

When Mentmore was first built and had been furnished by my grandfather with its varied beautiful contents, his many friends came to stay. Here they often encountered Sir Joseph Paxton who had progressed in my grandfather's affections from trusted architect to well-loved friend.

We never heard much about my grandfather, in connection with the house, except that when he returned from hunting he used to have a bath in the Limoges Room—a singular place to choose. It was on the ground floor and was lined with glass cases containing Limoges enamels. It led out of the Amber Room—so called because its chief ornaments were amber. It was exciting to go there on hot days and see if the chandelier, also of amber, had melted and was lying on the floor.

So many personalities must have stayed at Mentmore and

must have dined in the great dining-room with the walls hung with Genoese velvet and pictures by Van Loo. On the side-tables were old German figures. I particularly remember one—a horse whose rider had the head of Gustavus Adolphus. This head could be removed and replaced with that of Wallenstein, which was kept in the interior of the horse. This was useful in the Thirty Years' War, so as to be always ready with the victor. On a small plaque under a window in this room are inscribed the names of those who dined with my father to celebrate the turn of the century.

Just as his sitting room my father moved some of the best furniture in the house, shortly after he married. I have heard that my mother was delighted and that she exclaimed, "It shows his good taste." The furniture included Necker's writing-table, the cabinet of Augustus the Strong, and a low, compacted, the lock of which was supposed to have been made by Louis Seize.

I was told that my grandfather, Baroness Miver de Rothschild, had generally sat in the Green Drawing Room, so called because the walls were lined with green silk, a perfect background for the Italian pictures and the cabinet of ebony and gold given to Marie de Medici on her marriage, by the City of Florence. But this room, I am told, was a favourite choice for my grandmother, as she had in different health and her phobia was draughts. As the Green Drawing Room was really a passage room, the three doors

and windows had to be almost hermetically sealed. She could not stand the scent of flowers and knew at once if one had been brought into the room. Smoking was, of course, strictly forbidden.

Her talk was, I believe, extremely brilliant, though I fancy she shared with Diderot the attribute of every gift except that of dialogue. Anyway, after a brilliant seance, she would rise, clap a hat on her head (presumably against draughts) and lead the way to the dining-room.

During the last war, my brother lent Mentmore to my husband and me and the Land Army. I remember wandering through the house and found the central hall filled with historic ceilings from Greenwich and Marlborough House, and the floor of the Billiards Room covered with the recumbent figures of kings and queens from Westminster Abbey, through which I threaded my way. I used to walk outdoors past the Maze, flanked by huge bushes of sweet-smelling syringes, till I came to the summit of a slope and there, gazing over the view of the orchards that lay below, was the romantic equestrian figure of Charles I by Lesseur, removed from London for safety.

These war-time visitors betokened changes—changes which will go on whether we like it or not. I can only echo Disraeli who once wrote: "I hope prosperity and happiness hover over the towers of Mentmore." I trust his wish will forever be fulfilled.

The Marchioness of Crewe, aged 4. A detail from the portrait by Millais.

By permission Mary, Duchess of Rutland. Photograph Courtesy Institute.

George Hutchinson

Putting a check on the 'outside left'

On the day of Mr Crosland's death a meeting took place in London that might almost have been designed to pay tribute to the principles that informed and guided his own political outlook and unfailingly distinguished his long services to the Labour movement.

Led by a member of the Government, Mr William Rodgers, including other MPs, this was a meeting of social democrats determined, if they can, to overcome the far left influence now undermining their party—influences sadly at variance with the spirit of reason and tolerance that inspired Anthony Crosland. Philosophically, and in other respects, he was in the line and mould of his old friend Hugh Gaitskell, and his early death is similarly tragic.

Perhaps the most fitting memorial to both would be a Labour Party in which standards like theirs again became uppermost, as they were until recent years. The sentiments that moved Hugh Gaitskell and Anthony Crosland are still deeply embedded in the Labour movement. They have not been obliterated; but they need to be asserted afresh if Labour is to recover and retain its historic reputation as a party of liberty, its enabling tradition.

This is Mr Rodgers' purpose. In Mr Gaitskell's day he was prominent in the Campaign for Democratic Socialism. Let us hope that he and his friends will now prove equally adept in protecting the sort of Labour Party which the present leader, Mr Callaghan, would wish to preserve. It is in the interests of everyone that they should succeed—everyone, I mean, except the wreckers, Trotskyist or otherwise.

William Rodgers is a former secretary of the Fabian Society, to which the young James Callaghan (then known as Leonard) was attracted long years ago. It is the ideal of the Fabians and like-minded libertarians that are under systematic, disciplined and unrelenting attack from a totalitarian minority.

As Mr Rodgers was saying: "The undeniable fact is that the moderate, democratic socialists and loyalists have been on the defensive. The question is really this: is the party to be increasingly influenced by those who care little for our values? The outside left, as I choose to call

them, do not believe in the ballot box."

He was too mild, of course. Social democracy is being methodically subverted by political forces quite alien to the instincts and sympathies of the mass of "ordinary" Labour supporters—hence, in part, the defections in recent by-elections.

Mr Rodgers also had this to say: "Many people have the impression that the main opposition to our Government comes not from the Tories but from the Labour Party. National Executive Committee. Its claim to be representative is bogus." Mr Callaghan would not quarrel with that assessment.

Even Mr Ronald Haywood, the party's general secretary (and himself a member of the NEC) who has seemed on occasion, something less than alert to the dangers, is now lecturing one and all on the need for unity. The Labour Party, he declares, is being infiltrated by a mood of intolerance: "The increasing level of intolerance reveals itself monthly in the growing number of disputes and appeals with which the National Executive's organization committee has to deal. . . . So let us stop this nit-picking. Let us stop bleating in every public pulpit available that we are better socialists than our comrades."

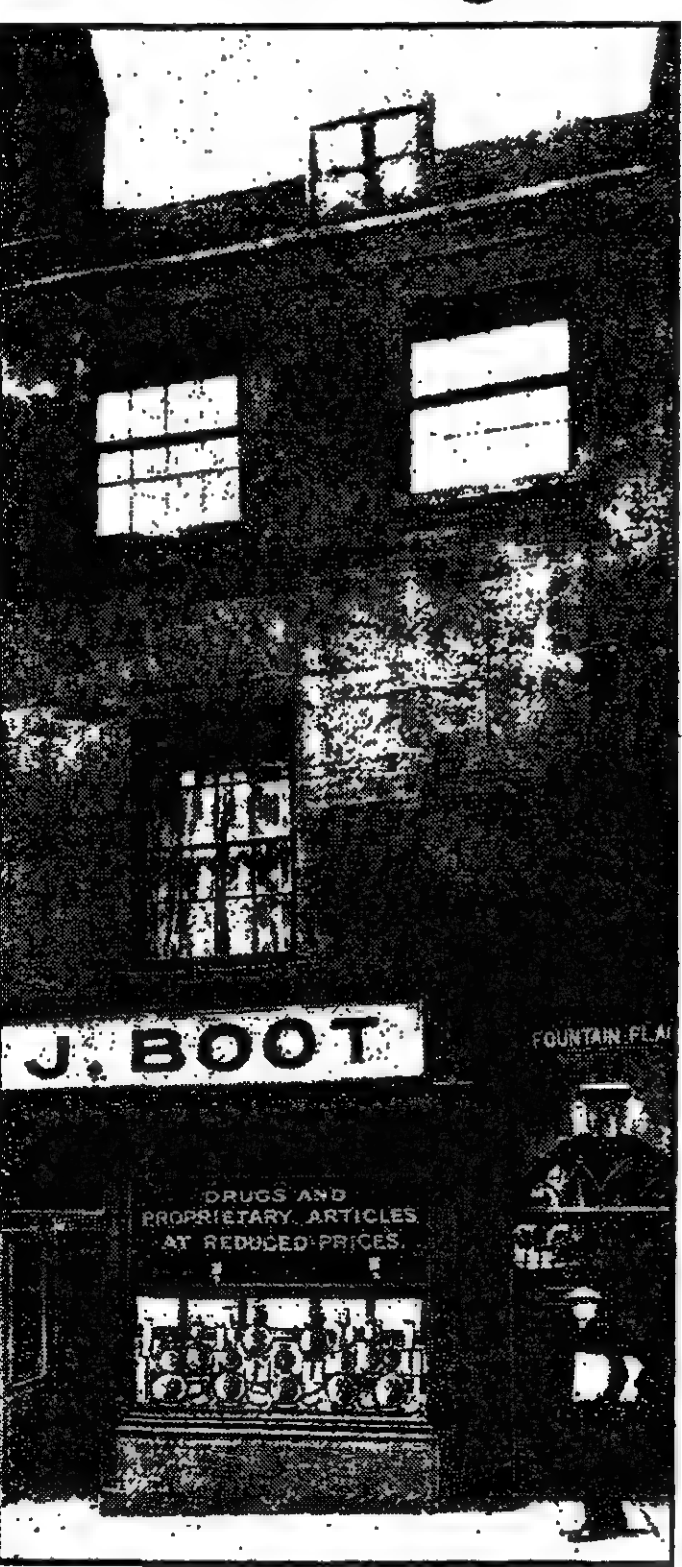
That is all very well—but can he be said to meet the challenge, which found stranger expression in a letter to the Prime Minister earlier this month from the officers of the Social Democratic Alliance, Mr Roger Fox, Dr Stephen Haseler, Mr Douglas Edna and Mr Ronald Halliday.

"We believe," so they wrote to Mr Callaghan, "that you no longer lead a Labour movement that is wholly democratic and that elements within it are to the left of, and indeed more pro-Soviet than, some western communist parties. How this unhealthy state of affairs could have come about will be for historians to judge, but we are certain that it has something to do with years of negligent political leadership from within our own Labour Party. You have inherited a difficult situation. It might have been different if you had succeeded Hugh Gaitskell 14 years ago."

A melancholy reflection—and probably true.

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What love and 'health' for a shilling' did for Jesse Boot



Jesse Boot's shop at 38 Goose Gate as it looked in 1877.

Boots the chemists play as central a part in our commercial times as the guilds or street vendors played for our ancestors. A third of all British women visit their high street cathedral of toothpaste and talcum powder every week. But not one in 100 could tell you why it is called Boots. They do sell wellies down there by the hot water bottles, but it surely cannot be because of that.

A hundred years ago this February Jesse Boot, aged 27, put up his own sign for the first time in the window of a poky little shop at 38 Goose Gate, Nottingham, advertising drugs and proprietary articles at reduced prices. He was the son of a farm labourer, who was a Wesleyan preacher with a talent for making herbal remedies as well as saving souls. He died when Jesse was seven, and the boy left school soon afterwards to help his mother in her small herbalist business.

The boy tramped for miles barefoot during the day, gathering herbs for the shop, and studied in the local library in the evenings. In 1877 he took over the shop, and began to put his ideas into practice, notably curative selling and popular advertising at a time when working people were beginning to have more money to spend. On February 24, 1877, he took the largest advertisement in the Nottingham Daily Express. It listed 128 items for sale, ranging down the alphabet from "Allen's Hair Restorer" to "Woodhouse's Rheumatic Elixir"; and including a number of home-made preparations such as "Boots No Name Ointment", "Boots Aromatic Composition Powder" and "Boots Patent Lobelia Pills for asthma, indigestion, and spasms".

These last useful objects were rolled by his sister, Jane, and later marketed under the irresistible slogan, "Health for a Shilling". This was an obvious success. Support is given to Beecham's Pills, which were advertised as being "Worth a Guinea a Box".

The best thing that Jesse Boot ever did for himself and his firm was to marry Florence Rowe, the daughter of a stationer and bookshop owner. She was lively, gregarious, and her enthusiasms led Jesse to diversify into such lucrative new lines as fancy goods, cosmetics, artists' materials, books, and

stationery. She also looked after her staff, and took a high and positive view of the calling of trade. When she learned that some of her poorer girls came to work without breakfast, she ordered hot cocoa to start the day at Boots.

Whenever a girl got married, Florence gave her a Bible. She once addressed her assembled women shop assistants as follows: "My earliest recollections are of toddling round the counters at my father's side, and learning from him that all labour was dignified; and that to be courteous and obliging was a great asset in the business world, and that life in a shop could be and ought to be a high calling."



Jesse Boot

The little shop at Goose Gate has done well. Jesse Boot became Lord Trent in 1928, and died three years later, after being crippled for many years by arthritis. In his retirement he devoted himself to philanthropy, notably gifts of money and land to Nottingham University College, which he wanted to see become a university.

Today there are 1,200 shops that carry his name. Their sales last year were worth £647.5m. They employ 66,600 staff. It is barely possible for a Briton to imagine shaving, or changing the baby, or curing belly-ache or hangover without Boots. But this week a hundred years ago it was all just a gleam in the eye of a young man with some home-picked samples, big ideas, and a weekly turnover of £20.

Philip Howard

Sportsview

Skating on very thin ice

There have been two notable events in sport so far this month: an admission, by people who should know, that the sports facilities for youth in Britain are now the worst in Europe, and the decision by the Greater London Council to help the capital's ailing football clubs.

The depressing verdict on sports facilities surprised few of the youth service workers and sports officials meeting in the new £13m Wembley Conference Centre, but their admission that no remedy has yet been devised is dispiriting.

As for the GLC, one councillor, apparently a Fulham season ticket holder, argued that watching football must be recognized as part of the fabric of a working man's life; if the Royal Opera House deserved support, why not Craven Cottage or Stamford Bridge? In return, the newspapers—though this was not putting soccer in the rates, it was hastily pointed out—could be given use of various recreational facilities on the grounds.

Which brings us to ice hockey. If the anxious Wembley delegates and the suddenly sports-conscious councillors happen to be passing the Silver Blades rink, Streatham, at about midday next Wednesday, they will find further evidence of the desperate over-use of sports facilities, and a strong hint of where money might be better channelled. The spectacle of 15-year-olds waiting to play ice hockey at 1 a.m. and later posing a question requiring an answer.

In come the speed men

After sweating South London youth—or a sizable part of it—has been coaxed, threatened or swept off the ice and thrust into the streets, speed skaters, the sport's poorest cousins, will be granted an hour's training (they will have come from as far away as Harlow and Brighton) before Streatham Hawks hockey team take the ice.

Conspicuous among the Hawks is Tony Goldstone, a 15-year-old pupil of Beaufoy Comprehensive School, Kennington. At Beaufoy he will be sitting O levels in May in art, design and technical draw-

ing. At the Silver Blades hockey skills and willingness stay up until the early ice find ice have won him So Ice Hockey's Rookie of the year award, the captaincy of a senior league Hawks, an admiration of his hockey—men like Tony White, John Rost and Tony Ex-Wembley Lions and Bri Tiggers, and now unopposed unrecognized youth leader.

Tony learnt to skate at 5 ham—the only rink in London (population as b Switzerland)—which is such a matter of the sun of the finest. If there is a favourite thing that said about Britain's rinks that nowhere else can you be so fast on the ice as aggressive in the ruck—commercial operators have packing them in long John Curry, packing him operative word.

The last in the queue

"We come last in the here," John Rost said at a rest period while playing the more senior Streatham skins against an all-American Oxford University side early one Sunday morning. In the last two days our have travelled to Be Southampton and Grimsby find ice. Football clubs pitch within five miles, but it's 100 miles."

Rost said it was worse their younger teams, 12 Grasshoppers, aged 15, because they had only hour a week on ice.

Contrary to popular the collapse of the profits London Lions three years did not deal a death blow hockey. Quite the reverse. The sport's poorest cousins, will be granted an hour's training (they will have come from as far away as Harlow and Brighton) before Streatham Hawks hockey team take the ice.

Michael Cole

Question to the Arts Council: what chance the unknown novelist?

The novel is dead, long live the novel. Those who proclaim with monotonous regularity that the novel is dead have much less wisdom on their side than those who, announcing the death of the monarchy, in the same breath announce its continuation. Current economic circumstances, however, do indicate that a few novels at least need a helping hand over the stile.

For those who are unfamiliar with the workings of the Arts Council literature panel, let me briefly, and perhaps over-simplistically, say that it awards grants to writers to write (extremely laudable) and grants to publishers to protect them against loss on "difficult" books. The acquisition of such a grant by the publisher is on an ad hoc title-by-title basis.

Here let me express a credo with which readers of this newspaper might possibly sympathize. Essentially I do not believe, as a publisher and as a businessman (and the publisher who is not a businessman is no publisher) in something for nothing. As a private taxpayer and as a corporate taxpayer I feel entitled to ask for money from the Arts Council since its funds come from my private

and my corporate purses and those of many others.

None the less, I have never in my dealings with other bodies and individuals, accepted money towards the publication of any book without giving something in return. What I, and I suspect most other publishers, should give in return, is books.

The Arts Council's grants to publishers are based upon the philosophy that they should make it easier for publishers to publish difficult, experimental and essentially uncommercial works of merit. With this, I and most civilized publishers must obviously agree. It is also self-evident that at the moment it is precisely this kind of book, the book that is normally eligible for a grant, which suffers most from worsening economic conditions.

The educated middle-class find it harder and harder to find the money to buy hard-core books of this kind. Librarians, who have, in the nature of the democratic process, supply books for the greatest good of the greatest number, are under very obvious pressure to stop buying poetry, first novels and experimental works.

A librarian who feels an obligation towards the community which pays his salary must inevitably, in allocating his ever more slender library purchasing budget, think very hard about whether he should buy, for say, £3.50 a new novel by Allister Maclean (who needs no subsidy) which will be borrowed by at least 100 people before it falls apart, or a new novel by Eva Figs or Paul Bailey or David Pige which is likely to have many fewer borrowers in its lifetime. Support is needed for the work of these and other interesting but at present essentially uncommercial English novelists.

For a good literary first or second novel, one could during the post war boom confidently expect to sell 1,500 to 2,000 copies; if it received good reviews one could expect to sell 1,500 to 2,000 to the library system and approximately 1,200-1,300 to the public through sales in bookshops and give 2,500 copies away for review and publicity purposes and, if it was a significant profit, then at least without any substantial loss.

Today, because of the straitened circumstances created in the world of book-buying by inflation, the so-called "safe

library sale" of any decent book which is not of obvious commercial interest and merit has probably dwindled to something like 300 or 400, and the sale to devoted members of the public who are prepared to spend nearly £4 on a 200-page novel instead of on a bottle of Scotch has dwindled to similar, if not lower, figures.

Of the next novel by Eva Figs we shall print 2,000 copies and because she is an established experimental writer (if that is not an oxymoron) we can confidently expect to sell some 600 or so copies to the libraries and perhaps an equal quantity to the public. The rest will go in review copies and sales to Eva Figs's fairly substantial number of admirers.

However, the price that we can charge bears no relevance to the manufacturing cost. Public taste has not yet caught up with book production inflation and, for whatever reasons, publishers have been slow to raise realistic prices on novels of this kind, being reasonably certain that if they do they would not be bought.

Of real quality by the unknown John Smith. In today's climate, the library sale is likely to be some 2,300 at best and sales to the public another 200 or so, mostly the author's friends and, at the end of the year, nearly a thousand books having cost a pound each will be unsalable and worth only a few pennies each. A loss to the publisher, without over-heads, of nearly a thousand pounds.

The economic price for Mr Smith's book is about £8 and that for Eva Figs between £5-£6, clearly imponderable figures that would create a classic vicious circle.

If, on the other hand, one were able to print, say, 3,000 copies, the probably the retail price could be contained at £3.90, but one could only do that if there were a form of guaranteed purchase different from that which we used to get, but can no longer expect, from the public library system.

would be presented to those public libraries who would like to have the book but can no longer afford to buy it.

This was a grant being made by the Arts Council to the publisher. And, since the publisher would pay a full royalty to the author, a grant is being made by the Arts Council to the author. In round figures, assuming a retail price of £4, a 10 per cent royalty and an order for 2,000 copies, the author automatically gets £800. At the same time, a generous donation is being made to the public library system.

Given their freedom of choice, as limited by budgetary restrictions, they would probably have been able to take only 300 copies anyway to conserve their dwindling resources for more popular books.

While I realize that it is not always possible for government bodies to cooperate as well as they might, one should also consider the possi-

bility that such grants could be linked with grants from the British Council on similar lines. The British Council does, after all, have an obligation to maintain representative English-language libraries abroad and it would not be too difficult for the Arts Council and the British Council to combine their prior orders to publishers.

Since grants of this nature are only given for works of minority appeal, I think I can safely say that there would be few objections from the book trade, as these days the retail book trade is largely unwilling or unable to support this kind of book anyway.

Above all, when the Arts Council makes its annual report, it can say that in addition to having given grants to individual writers (I do not for one moment want that system to be affected) it will not simply have handed out money to individual publishers, but it will be able to list a select and, I trust, not undistinguished body of work which it has purchased with public money for the public benefit.

The novel is very much alive and will always be with us, but as the economy becomes more and more difficult, schemes of

this kind become ever more important so that the allocations that publishers for the support of new, interesting literature can be increased. In fact, to a successful publishing requires the skills of a juggler who has to produce a mix of new and balanced work, the difficult and the obvious and the commercial. It is only by publishing obvious and the commercial that one can hope to support the new, the difficult and experimental. Each year inflation and other problems bite more deeply, the balance shifts towards the commercial. The output of serious literature work could thus progress be reduced.

I believe that our culture would be adversely affected if that were to happen to output of all the good literary publishers in this country. The Arts Council literature panel help to defer that day.

T. G. Rosen

The author is managing director of Secker & Warburg.

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Afro-Arab dilemma faces many snags

P.H.



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P.O. Box 2083 KHARTOUM (SUDAN)
CABLES WATANIA

Huge untapped resources attract international attention

by Atef Sultan

The visitor to Khartoum is soon struck by the immensity of the problems facing Sudan; indeed, when one ventures beyond the capital, the problems may seem overwhelming. Sudan is a vast country with remarkable cultural and economic differences and it is only recently that it has embarked on a serious attempt to develop its enormous natural resources.

But Sudan is not yet equipped to cope with the complexities of modern and comprehensive development. Apart from the problems of political stability, the country's public services and administrative facilities are far from adequate even to serve the present modest level of its economic activity.

However, Sudan's huge untapped resources have attracted considerable attention in the international business community. Businessmen and financiers have been flocking to Khartoum competing to supply the funds and the technology to keep up the development momentum.

Remarkably, Sudan's creditworthiness has not been seriously affected either because it is the only country listed by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) as having negative foreign exchange reserves or because of its rapidly growing foreign debts which last July soared to \$950m. The international business community sees the country's poor financial position as a short-term problem, and believes that its long-term prospects look good and therefore investments will pay well.

Most development projects in Sudan are supported by external funds. Although financial assistance has been received from various sources, the bulk of it comes from the Arab oil-exporting countries. Last April, the Kuwait-based Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development (AFESD) began to put into effect a massive investment programme costing \$2,287m to

exploit Sudan's agricultural potential.

Under this programme, nearly a third of the total investments will go to basic public service projects and because of this the programme will have far-reaching effects on Sudan's overall economic conditions.

The launching of the AFESD's programme has played an important role in encouraging other investors. Now the prospects for the creation of a more efficient service sector appear promising, investment in Sudan has become popular.

Sudan has been working hard to develop its farming, mining, industry, transport and communications and this will make carrying out the ambitious AFESD programme, including a proposal for cultivation of soy beans and maize and other planned projects easier.

\$240m scheme to irrigate 820,000 acres

To meet immediate needs, Sudan, with help of Arab money, is carrying out a number of large agricultural projects of which the Rahad irrigation scheme is one of the biggest. The project, being carried out by the Rahad Corporation at a cost of \$240m, will eventually irrigate 820,000 acres south-east of Gezira and the first stage covering 300,000 acres is scheduled for completion by 1978.

The project's production targets are put at 230,000 bales of cotton, 70,000 tons of cotton seed and 50,000 tons of groundnuts a year, most of which will be exported. The British firm of Sir M. MacDonald & Partners acting as engineering consultant for the project, while Shaikland, Cox Partnership has been appointed as sub-consultant for planning and architectural works.

Another big project is also under way to establish the world's biggest sugarcane plantation and refining

estate, the Kenana scheme. This will cost about \$475m to develop 35,000 acres of sugarcane on farms between the Blue and White Niles near Kosti with a production target of some 330,000 tons of refined sugar a year by 1980. About half of this will be exported.

Following an agreement concluded with Egypt in August, 1975, work has begun on the vital 73-year-old project to dig the 175-mile Jonglei diversions canal in the south. The canal, which is to be built by a French consortium forming part of a larger project costing about \$350m to drain the great Sudd swamp and save some four million cubic metres of water a year to irrigate 200,000 acres of new land and will eventually irrigate an estimated area of 2,500,000 acres.

The canal, which will link the southern towns of Jonglei and Malakal, will also considerably improve navigational supply routes in the south as well as with the north. Sudan is also developing its industry to achieve self-sufficiency in principal consumer goods. Besides the rapid growth in the sugar industry, other industrial efforts are concentrated on the development of textiles. Ten textile plants are being built with the help of the United Kingdom, Belgium and China.

Among the other big industrial projects being carried out is the development of a cement plant at Derudeb in the Red Sea province costing \$78m. The plant, which is built with financial help from Britain and Kuwait, will have an initial production capacity of 500,000 tons a year and is expected to be completed in 1979.

Work on the exploitation of Sudan's mineral resources is progressing fast. In May 1976, the Saudi-Sudanese Commission for the Exploitation of the Red Sea Resources was established to develop zinc, copper and silver deposits in the Red Sea at a cost of \$45m. The rich oilfields in the Blue Nile



province also will be developed and output is to be increased from 25,000 tons to 50,000 tons a year in the next two years.

Two Japanese companies, the Mitsubishi Corporation and Japan Metals & Chemicals, agreed in January to take a 49 per cent stake in a joint venture with the Sudanese Government to establish a chrome mine with an annual capacity of between 300,000 and 300,000 tons. Most of the output will be exported to Japan. The companies will invest about \$60m over 10 years and a feasibility study for the project will begin soon.

Hopes for oil and gas discoveries are rising. Geological and geophysical surveys during the past three years have yielded promising indications of oil and gas deposits in the Red Sea area. Both the American Pacific International and Standard Oil of California announced last year that they struck gas in their concession areas.

Other international companies, including Chevron Overseas Petroleum, Texaco, both of the United States, and the British company Ball & Collins, have also been granted concessions for oil and gas exploration in Sudan but, despite the discovery of small and commercially viable quantities of oil deposits, production has not yet started.

But obstacles to the success of development programmes are immense. Sudan's fairly rapid growth has produced serious balance of payments problems and inflation is running at between 20 per cent and 30 per cent a year.

Serious shortages in

skilled workforce are emerging as large numbers of the already scarce technical and managerial staff are finding more lucrative opportunities in oil-producing Gulf states. Sudan's almost non-existent public works facilities, however, have been the most important factor in any development in the country.

Serious deficiencies appear in almost all types of transport and communication. The road and rail network is in a state of disrepair and the telephone system is now being expanded. Work is expected to begin soon on the construction of four air strips in the southern provinces of Juba, Malakal and Warrap.

Sudan's telecommunication services also are modernized under a project agreed in September 1976 with the Arab Investment Corporation to a network of satellite stations to link the 14 provinces with the capital, Khartoum, and with the telephone, telegraph and vision facilities.

The project is financed from a \$7m loan agreed with the Arab Investment Corporation and from a \$12m loan raised in January 1976 in the Eurodollar market. On commissioning the pipeline last September, serious leaks in the pipes were discovered and its opening has been put back by a few months.

Port Sudan, which caters for 97 per cent of the country's exports and 95 per cent of its imports, is being improved and a second port will be built at Suakin with West German help.

Sudan's road network, which boasts a mere 500km of asphalted surface, is also being improved with finan-

cial help from the Bank, China and India. More than 1,000 km weather roads linking Sudan and Khartoum being built at a cost of \$300m and are scheduled for completion by 1979.

Because of the inland port and road facilities, Sudan has become the most reliable and this is now being expanded. Work is expected to begin soon on the construction of four air strips in the southern provinces of Juba, Malakal and Warrap.

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John Garner traces the ups and downs of the principal agricultural product

Cotton industry faces a dilemma

Few Europeans would guess at the significance of cotton to such countries as Sudan. Cotton is the world's principal agricultural product for industry, its cultivation for processing provides the livelihood for at least 200 million people, mostly in the developing world. Although, ironically, the leading suppliers are the United States and Russia, exports of cotton provide the main foreign exchange earnings of Pakistan, Turkey, Egypt, much of Central and South America, and many African countries.

Cotton textiles are of paramount importance to India and China, and were the basis for industrial development in South-east Asia. Yet in none of these is a nation's dependence upon its success more strikingly evident than in Sudan.

It was British patronage which financed, inspired and put into effect the vast agricultural irrigation scheme, probably still the largest single farming enterprise in the world that has been developed in what was once desert just south of the confluence of the White and Blue Niles at Khartoum.

The development of this area, the Gezira, has been interested colonialism in that the Lancashire spinner sought cheap, assured supplies of the fine long-staple cotton he could secure in quantity only from Egypt. That conspicuous agricultural success was not attended by comparable economic gain has been the bitterest pill of Sudanese independence. Production of cotton had been much expanded by the 1950s, after extension of the original gravity-irrigated Gezira scheme, and the advent of lesser private schemes, which depended not upon a large dam and canal system, as did the Gezira, but upon mechanical pumping of water direct from the adjacent Niles.

There was indeed a brief period after the Second World War in which the abundant Egyptian-type cotton sold well, finding large outlets for Western European and Japanese shirts and Indian saris.

However, the British, architects of the enterprise, were by then unwittingly engineering the first of the cotton types, the first polyester fibre, was introduced in Britain, offering a challenge far greater than that of nylon. The British home market, earlier a consumer of vast quantities of the staple, was among the first to succumb. Sales to

the western countries, by Egypt and Sudan, declined drastically.

There followed a long period during which exports from both countries were maintained only by the increasing commitment of cotton to Russia and Eastern Europe, whose motives in purchasing were not solely commercial. Advisers from the West advocated the production of American-type cotton (already a proven practicality) on the ground that this type commanded more outlets.

Marketing became increasingly difficult in the 1960s, and the Western European influence inevitably lost ground. In 1970, the private exporting firms which had hitherto bought the cotton from the producing organizations, were nationalized. They were consolidated into four exporting companies, operating along the Egyptian pattern, under the aegis of a government supervisory body, the Cotton Public Corporation.

Those who expected this move to provide the answer for the difficulties of marketing Sudanese cotton were to be disappointed. "Blessed, or perhaps burdened, with an abundance of cotton that the world has not always needed, the corporation has been confronted with a task that would have taxed the intellectual resources of the most perspicacious European or American commodity trader. The recent nadir of Khartoum's experience was in 1974, when, just as the effects of the oil price explosion were being felt in all other markets but cotton and values there were still fairly firm, the corporation held out for unrealistically high prices, only to be left with a huge accumulation of supply when the market slumped. There emerged from the subsequent painful self-examination a resolve to make all sectors of the cotton community more keenly aware of their dependence upon one another, and to develop a greater sensitivity to the needs of the market.

Much good has indeed resulted. The standard of "ginning", a factory process by which the fibre is detached from its seed, has been greatly improved. The doubts as to the wisdom of growing more American-type cottons at the expense of Egyptian types, have been largely dispelled. The cultivation of American strains in the geographically isolated lesser schemes, from which they could not hybridize the long staple, was among the first to succumb. Sales to

the western countries, by Egypt and Sudan, declined drastically.

There followed a long period during which exports from both countries were maintained only by the increasing commitment of cotton to Russia and Eastern Europe, whose motives in purchasing were not solely commercial. Advisers from the West advocated the production of American-type cotton (already a proven practicality) on the ground that this type commanded more outlets.

Marketing became increasingly difficult in the 1960s, and the Western European influence inevitably lost ground. In 1970, the private exporting firms which had hitherto bought the cotton from the producing organizations, were nationalized. They were consolidated into four exporting companies, operating along the Egyptian pattern, under the aegis of a government supervisory body, the Cotton Public Corporation.

Those who expected this move to provide the answer for the difficulties of marketing Sudanese cotton were to be disappointed. "Blessed, or perhaps burdened, with an abundance of cotton that the world has not always needed, the corporation has been confronted with a task that would have taxed the intellectual resources of the most perspicacious European or American commodity trader. The recent nadir of Khartoum's experience was in 1974, when, just as the effects of the oil price explosion were being felt in all other markets but cotton and values there were still fairly firm, the corporation held out for unrealistically high prices, only to be left with a huge accumulation of supply when the market slumped. There emerged from the subsequent painful self-examination a resolve to make all sectors of the cotton community more keenly aware of their dependence upon one another, and to develop a greater sensitivity to the needs of the market.

Much good has indeed resulted. The standard of "ginning", a factory process by which the fibre is detached from its seed, has been greatly improved. The doubts as to the wisdom of growing more American-type cottons at the expense of Egyptian types, have been largely dispelled. The cultivation of American strains in the geographically isolated lesser schemes, from which they could not hybridize the long staple, was among the first to succumb. Sales to

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of Sultan examines in detail the project to transform the country into the anary of the Arab world. He also describes the Kenana scheme, the first of many huge farming programmes

Ten-year plan to counter rising world prices

resources that naturally make it by greater food and ar in the Middle East country in the Arab world, area of nearly 100 million acres of land estimated 100 million acres of resources are Sudan's ex- is but a small adisposed wealth, ly about 15 mil-

about a half their food requirements, and with a rapid increase in their population and disposable income their food needs are growing considerably.

Faced with the possibility of world shortages in grains and the continuous rise in world food prices, Arab economic and financial strategists became keenly interested in large-scale plans that could make the region self-sufficient in food production.

Now that the Arabs have the financial resources to support such plans, there have been no shortages of greatly underdeveloped crop and livestock wealth of the poorest country in Africa. The biggest, and probably the most hopeful, of these programmes is a 25-year master plan (1976-2000) proposed by the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development (AFESD) which aims at turning Sudan into an "Arab breadbasket".

The first practical step towards putting this plan into effect was decided last April when finance ministers of the 21 member-states of the AFESD meeting in Rabat approved a detailed programme for the first 10 years of its master plan.

The 10-year plan which is to be carried out by a specially created agency, the Arab Authority for Development and Agricultural Investment (AADI), established late last year in Khartoum, envisages the imple-

mentation of 100 integrated projects costing a total of \$2,287m.

The projects involve public service developments in crop and livestock production and the agro-industry. The overall target is to boost Sudan's farming produce by more than 300 per cent by 1985 and this will enable it to provide 42 per cent of Arab imports of vegetable oils, 20 per cent of sugar, 58 per cent of meat equivalent in animal feed and 1.5 per cent of wheat. Livestock is to be increased from 41 million head to 55 million head by 1985 and the production of fish is also expected to rise substantially.

The programme requires the development of 1,500,000 acres in irrigated land and five million acres in rain-fed areas while the prospects for the exploitation of about 16 million acres in pasture land is also considered. The AADI points out that with land and water being available, the workforce is not likely to pose serious problems.

The supply of unskilled labour is adequate in most parts of Sudan and provisions to expand the country's training facilities will be made to help to provide other forms of labour. Reliance on foreign skills will be limited only to the preparation of specialized and highly technical matters, the AADI says.

Although the programme aims at achieving a regional

balance inside Sudan, the AADI found it necessary, however, to concentrate its developments up to 1985 in the northern and eastern regions where it can make an immediate use of the existing facilities of water, irrigation, electric power, manpower and, most important, port facilities which are available only at Port Sudan. Because of this, these regions will get 60 per cent of the programme's total investments while allocations made for the western region are put at 24 per cent of the total and the southern region will get 16 per cent of the total.

The AADI is naturally concerned with the very limited capacity of Sudan's existing servicing facilities and has allocated 32 per cent of its total investments to develop this sector. Of the total funds to be spent on public service projects, 64.6 per cent will go to transport, 16.6 per cent to electric power and the remaining 18.8 per cent will be spent on other services.

Away from the service sector, allocations to productive projects account for 68 per cent of the programme's total funds of which 48 per cent will be invested in crops and forestry, 25.3 per cent in livestock and fisheries and the remaining 24.7 per cent in agro-industry developments.

The programme envisages meeting about 65 per cent of its costs in foreign currency and 35 per cent in Sudanese

currency. The AADI has agreed to arrange the external finance and has worked out the details concerning the type of credit facilities to be granted to individual projects. The programme's 100 projects have been broken down into four big investment groups.

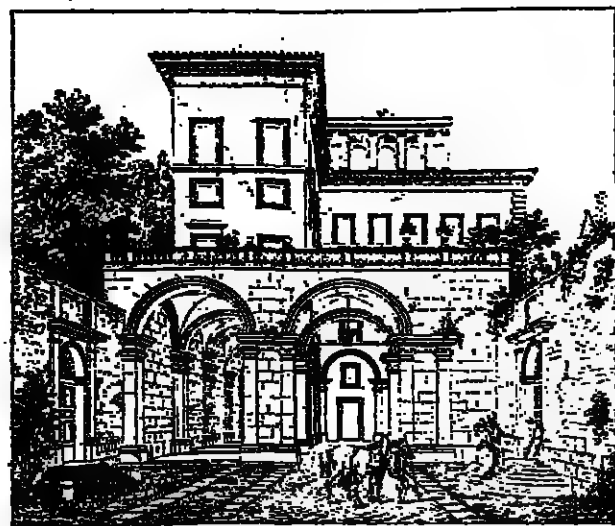
First, 31 projects costing \$1,040m involving crops, livestock, transport and agro-industry developments are to be financed through capital and commercial loans raised mainly on the Arab market. The second group, consisting of 25 farming projects, which are to be carried out by Sudanese public corporations, will be 90 per cent financed by soft loans. The third and fourth investment groups involve 44 projects for the development of transport, water control, storage, crop marketing, livestock, and export facilities costing \$567.1m, 94 per cent of which will be financed by soft loans.

The AADI has suggested that the putting into effect of its programme should start by what is described as the "first investment plan" consisting of 60 projects costing \$578m, to be carried out by 1983.

Of these, 27 are planned in the productive sector and 33 in services. Priority has been given to putting into effect projects for which identification and feasibility studies have been completed. Under the financial provisions of the plan, \$546m will be met by the AADI itself and the remaining \$322m by Sudan and other Arab governments and financial institutions.

Such a vast programme will undoubtedly require the use of engineering, managerial and technical skills which neither Sudan nor its Arab neighbours can now adequately provide. It is expected, therefore, that a large part of these services will be contracted to specialized international firms.

According to a forecast on this made by the AFESD, more than 30 consulting groups would be required to carry out preinvestment studies while a similar number will be commissioned for the actual execution of the projects. It also said that 17 companies will be established to run the commercial projects and four public corporations will be created for the management of the service projects.

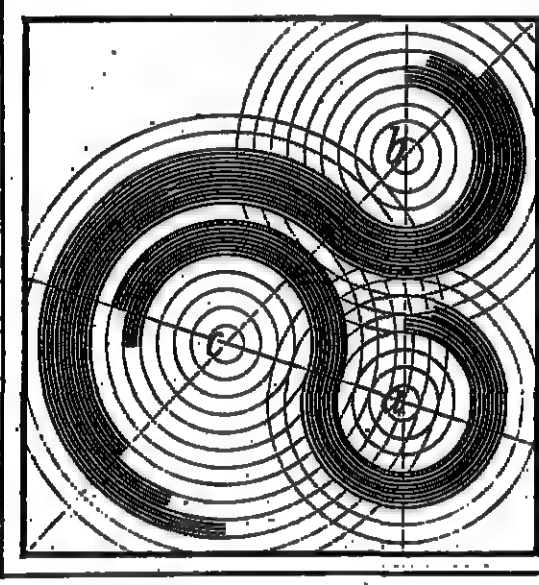


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The sweet taste of record breaking

me, Sudan's agri- nized economy under which both local and foreign investors were keenly encouraged. It was amid this change that the Kenana scheme emerged.

The project was initially considered by Lonrho, the United Kingdom trading group, and the Sudanese Government in 1970 and a feasibility study for it started in 1971. Its implementation, however, began to look attractive only after the 1973 Middle East war.

Originally, Lonrho was to put up 49 per cent of Kenana's capital, but some of the company's directors were not in favour of the project because they thought it was too big for Sudan whose financial position looked poor, and because its public services would not be sufficient for such a large project for which nearly all required materials were to be imported.

Lonrho was not impressed by other recent sugar developments in Sudan which fell behind schedule, and in view of Sudan's heavily congested port facilities, export prospects did not appear encouraging either.

But soon after the big oil price rise in 1973, the Arab oil-exporting countries became increasingly concerned about the security of their future food supplies. Now that the Arabs have the funds, they have begun to invest in Sudan to use its vast untapped agricultural wealth. With this being assured, the development of Sudan's productive and public services facilities looked brighter; thus Lonrho's principal objections to Kenana began to recede.

In 1974, Lonrho's managing director, Mr Roland ("Tiny") Rowland, who previously disagreed with his fellow directors in favour of Kenana, speeded his efforts to go ahead with the project. The Kenana Sugar Company was formed in

February 1975 to carry out the scheme and, a month later, Lonrho secured the management contract for the entire scheme.

Although Lonrho's stake in Kenana was finally put at only 2.5 per cent, after an increase in Kenana's capital from \$25m to \$100m in April 1976, Mr Rowland, through his contacts with Arab leaders and financial circles, played a major role in attracting the funds needed to launch the project.

The Kuwait Government took a 23 per cent stake in Kenana's capital; the Riyadh-based Arab Investment Company, 17 per cent; Gulf Fisheries of Kuwait (which is also involved in Lonrho), 2.25 per cent and Nishob-Iwai of Japan, 2.25 per cent. The remaining 50 per cent was divided between the Sudanese Government (40 per cent) and the state-run Sudan Development Corporation (10 per cent).

The cost of the project is financed from Arab funds raised on the European market and from suppliers' credit facilities now totalling \$116m of which \$65m comes from France, \$35m from Japan, \$12m from Austria and \$4m from the United Kingdom.

Most Kenana contracts are let by international tender. The design of the irrigation works has been undertaken by the United Kingdom civil engineering firm, Sir Alfred McAlpine & Sons, for the main irrigation works while pumps worth \$12m are being supplied and installed by Andritz of Austria.

The design of the irrigation works has been undertaken by the United Kingdom consultant engineers Howard Humphreys & Sons. The sugar refinery is designed

by the United States company, Arkel International, and McAlpine is preparing its site under a \$19m contract won in August, 1976. Most of the refinery equipment will be supplied by Technip of France under a \$90m deal signed in April, 1976.

Nishob-Iwai is to supply the power plant consisting of six boilers and four steam turbine generators. Bids worth \$40m for the mechanical erection of the refinery are expected to be invited soon and it now seems likely that this will go to a United States firm.

Sudanese companies are carrying out the scheme's housing and other public services costing \$10m. Bids for the remaining civil and irrigation works were invited last December.

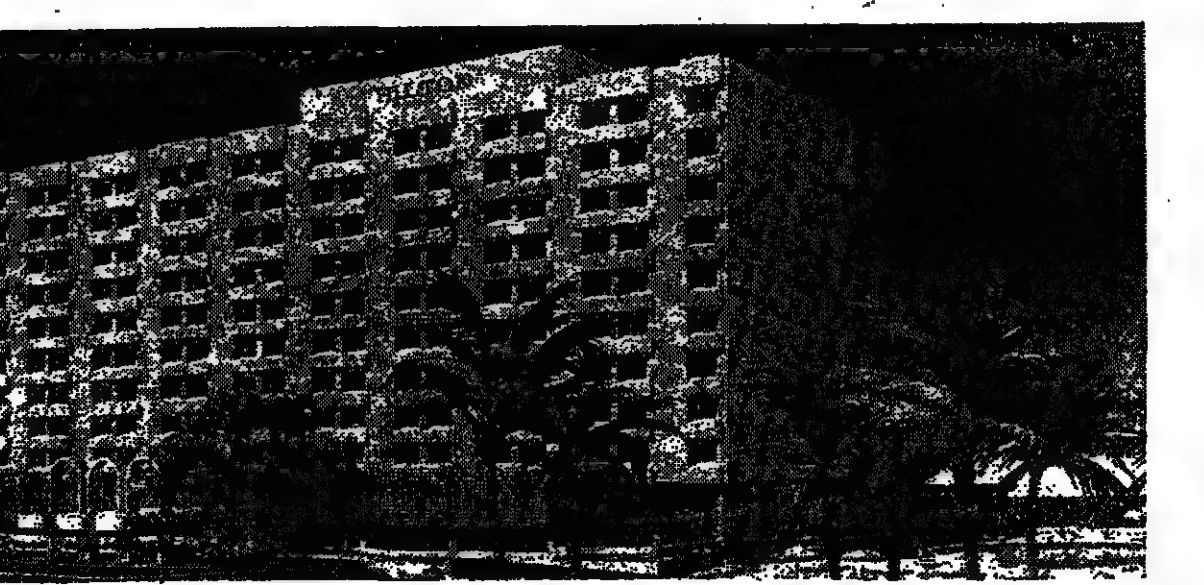
The biggest problem facing Kenana has been to check its costs and to ensure that construction works are kept on target. Costs have risen sharply, however, and in less than two years they nearly doubled the original estimate. In July, 1975, total costs were put at \$250m and later in the year this increased to \$350m.

In September, 1976, Mr Nimeiry said that the figure had risen to \$450m but now this is believed to be up to \$500m. The steep rise in costs is said to have been caused by world inflation and by the late arrival of funds agreed with some Arab sources, leading to delays in signing final contracts.

Although irrigation and civil engineering works and the sugar plantation operations are apparently on schedule, the completion date for the refinery has been put back by nine months to November 1978. The company's management seems to have been complicated because of the numerous government and commercial interests involved in its running.

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Storage and transport are port's weaknesses

by Andrew Lycett

Port Sudan is something of an historical phenomenon. It was built by the British colonial authorities in 1909 when the old sailing port of Suakin was falling into disuse. But, together with the single-track railway which linked it to Khartoum, Port Sudan had little function but to service the needs of the expatriate community in the capital.

Now the Sudanese Government proposes to revive the port of Suakin, giving it modern facilities such as a roll-on, roll-off terminal, which Port Sudan never had. With this project in the offing, money for Port Sudan's own essential development has been scarce.

Yet, while Sudan's new national plan is put into operation, requiring an increase in both exports of commodities and imports of capital goods for development projects, Port Sudan remains the country's only sea port.

Ninety-seven per cent of Sudan's exports and 95 per cent of its imports (a total of three million tons) pass through the docks at Port Sudan.

Port facilities have been added to over the years to cater for already burgeoning traffic but they have reached the limit of their capacity. Three-year-old goods are piling up in a shapeless mess over the perimeter of the port.

In many ways this is not the fault of the port authority. The actual berthing system works reasonably well; there are five main berths on the north quay of Port Sudan's natural harbour, each 465ft long.

Cargo is lifted from ships by 20 five-ton cranes which line the dockside, working in tandem when required to handle particularly heavy loads. If there is anything they cannot manage they can be supplemented with a 15-ton crane and a 75-ton crane.

On the other side of the harbour there are four important berths which are normally reserved for special traffic. Two of these serve as the oil terminal for the Shell and BP refineries, five miles south of Port Sudan. Another is a grain terminal, while the fourth is used as a makeshift roll-on, roll-off dock.

Several companies involved in development projects in Sudan make their own arrangements to receive goods at this berth. Kenana

Sugar Company, for example, has established its own railway sidings and brought in seven fork-lift trucks and four mobile cranes, two of them with a capacity of 35 tons.

If Kenana can then get its machinery away down the railway to Kosti, all is well and good. But where port efficiency breaks down for most people is in storage, distribution and transport. There are only 11 transit sheds in the whole port. When these are filled (and they usually are), goods are piled up on the nearest available empty space. As there is little transport to convey them to their destinations up-country, valuable pieces of engineering machinery are often left to corrode in Port Sudan's humid atmosphere.

The trouble is that Sudan Railways cannot cope with the demands made on it on the crucial Port Sudan to Khartoum route. Although it has 4,800km in its system,

2,500,000 tons of freight are carried each year on the 1,000km single track between Port Sudan and the capital, while only 500,000 are transported on the remaining 3,800km.

It might have been possible in this situation to make maximum use of the profits from the Port Sudan to Khartoum stretch. But there were too many problems to overcome. Locomotives and wagons had a habit of being in the wrong place at the wrong time. Matters were made worse by Sudan Railways' history of poor labour relations and its inability to plan comprehensively as a result of uncertainty about the future of Port Sudan and its relation to the new port of Suakin.

These difficulties are being tackled gradually. An Australian team has advised on the smooth running of the railway. A \$24m International Development Association loan has been used to improve facilities, particularly on the Port Sudan

route, sections of which will be double tracked, starting next year. New engines have been brought from the United States and West Germany, new wagons from Spain and Belgium, while a \$10m loan from Hungary has speeded the purchase of 140 air-conditioned carriages from Budapest.

At the same time efforts are being made to take the strain off the railway from Port Sudan to Khartoum by building an all-weather Tarmac road between the two towns which should be open by the end of 1978. A British and German joint venture company has completed the laying of an oil pipeline straight across the desert from Port Sudan to the capital. But this project should have been commissioned last August. It has been delayed by leakages discovered in the seams of some of the 75,000 12-metre pipes which make up the line.

When it is finally open, and there is no doubt it will

be, it will relieve 40 per cent of the capacity of Sudan Railways' rolling stock which is used to carry oil products on this route. The pipeline will do much to clarify the future of Port Sudan which is likely to concentrate on general cargo and petroleum while the new port of Suakin deals with bulk cargoes such as food grains, sugar, oil seeds and vegetable oils for export and fertilisers for import.

Feasibility studies on the new port have been completed. A German firm has been awarded the contract to build its five new berths and 34 quays handling ships of up to 100,000 tons.

A new airport 15 miles north of Suakin will serve both the new port and Port Sudan which will be developed as the capital of an important Red-Sea province with an interesting commercial future.

Petroleum and mineral resources such as gypsum have been discovered there and

Port Sudan, although facilities have augmented, has reached the limit capacity.

new cement, fertiliser spinning factories planned. There are a few fisheries and long-term public service facilities as water and electricity.

The docks at Port Sudan will not be neglected. New deep-water berths, additional handling facilities will soon be built there.

With a general expansion on the railway linking Khartoum, Port Sudan and Suakin, the Sudan's position of historical significance as a bridge between the Red Sea and the wider world at large.

The author is London and Sudan.

More mineral surveys needed

Sudan's gold deposits in Red Sea province have attracted prospectors since Pharaonic times. They may even have been the site of King Solomon's Mines. The difficulty for all Sudanese rulers since that time has been to retain some of the wealth of those mines for their own people. President Nimeiri's task is the same. At a time when international mining companies are unwilling to invest in new mines, particularly in developing countries, he has to grant potential developers enough freedom and profitability to prospect large areas of land, while ensuring participation in the profits for his own government without it bearing any risk.

Fortunately the past 12 years have seen successful attempts to survey the extremely varied geological strata of Sudan. The results achieved by the Russians in the Red Sea Hills, the Germans on the bend of the Nile and the British firm, Hunting Geology and Geophysics, in its surveys of oil for Chevron and copper for UNDP (United Nations Development Programme), have encouraged the ambitions of the Geological and Mineral Resources Department (GMRD) of the Ministry of Industry and Mining in Khartoum. The department has set itself to publish a substantial strategic plan for the mining industry over the next five years—available from GMRD for £50 (£87).

The plan sets out programmes for the development and exploitation of seven principal minerals which are believed to be present in sufficiently viable quantities. These are iron ore, gold, copper, asbestos, chromium, gypsum and mica. Ten locations are indicated as having interesting mining possibilities. But the accent of the plan is to emphasize that further systematic geological and geophysical surveys are required before significant progress can be made in lifting the minerals.

For the moment mineral activity is centred on three main areas where UNDP has helped the GMRD to make efficient surveys. One is the traditional Red Sea Hills region where with Russian assistance the Sudanese Geological Survey has finished about half of a 150,000 sq km survey since 1972. Fourteen million tons of iron ore with an average grade of 52 per cent iron have been discovered at Siffa in the north of the hills, while significantly larger quantities of the ore are reported in the south of the hills (and also in southern Kordofan).

In the same Red Sea province some 300oz of gold are still mined each year at

Gebel. Further production of gold is expected from the old working near Serakoni, following a two-year survey by the GMRD and preliminary metallurgical studies by the British firm, Robertson Research International, in 1976. This mine is expected to yield some 5 kilograms of gold each month over the next three years at a cost of £2m.

At Bir-Eit, 40 miles north of Port Sudan on the Red Sea, gypsum deposits of 95 per cent purity and totalling more than 200 million tons are already being quarried and transported to Port Sudan and Khartoum for processing into plasterboard.

Recently a new and exciting possibility has arisen of mining mineral sediments at the bottom of the Red Sea. A joint Sudanese-German Commission for the Exploration of Red Sea Resources was formed in 1974 to spend some £30m on the exploration of zinc, copper and silver deposits on the Red Sea bed.

Contracts were signed with the German firm, Preussag, of Hannover, and with the French Bureau de Recherches Géologiques et Minières to assist in this work. But in August 1976 Preussag's contract was hastily revoked, for reasons that have yet to be explained. Nevertheless Sudanese and Saudi cooperation in this project shows that there are possibilities for regional development in mining, as does a joint Sudanese-Egyptian mining company established with capital of \$5.7m.

The second general area of mineralogical promise is the Ingessana Hill region bordering Ethiopia. There some 16 million tons of 3 per cent chrysotile asbestos have been discovered. The Canadian firm, Johns Manville, has been retained to confirm this find. It is said that 100,000 tons of fibre could be produced each year for 20 years from the deposit.

More interesting at Ingessana is the surveying of the substantial reserves of chromite. A hundred Chinese experts are working on a study of these reserves which will be finished in June 1977. Known deposits exceed a million tons grading 54 per cent Cr₂O₃. These have been sufficient to encourage the Japanese firms of Marubeni and Mitsubishi to offer to put up £35m to establish a ferrochrome industry in the hills. Production of the ore will be raised in stages to 380,000 tons a year. When this ore is processed, it will, a representative of the Sudanese Mining Corporation says, bring the country a revenue of \$40m a year.

The third leading mineral-bearing area is at Hofrat en Nahus (meaning Copper Hole) in southern Darfur, bordering the Central African Republic, where copper has been mined for a long time. Recent surveys conducted by Hunting Geology and Geophysics have quantified the extent of the mineral to be 9,300,000 tons at 4 per cent. An Italian firm is negotiating to mine the copper which is said to exist in conjunction with unspecified radioactive minerals.

These radioactive minerals could be used as a source of energy, as will the hydrocarbons which are beginning to be found in Sudan. For the past two years four Sudanese and foreign oil companies headed by Chevron, a subsidiary of Standard Oil of California, have been

exploring concessions covering 22,860 sq miles off-shore in the Red Sea and 200,000 sq miles on-shore in the south and south-east.

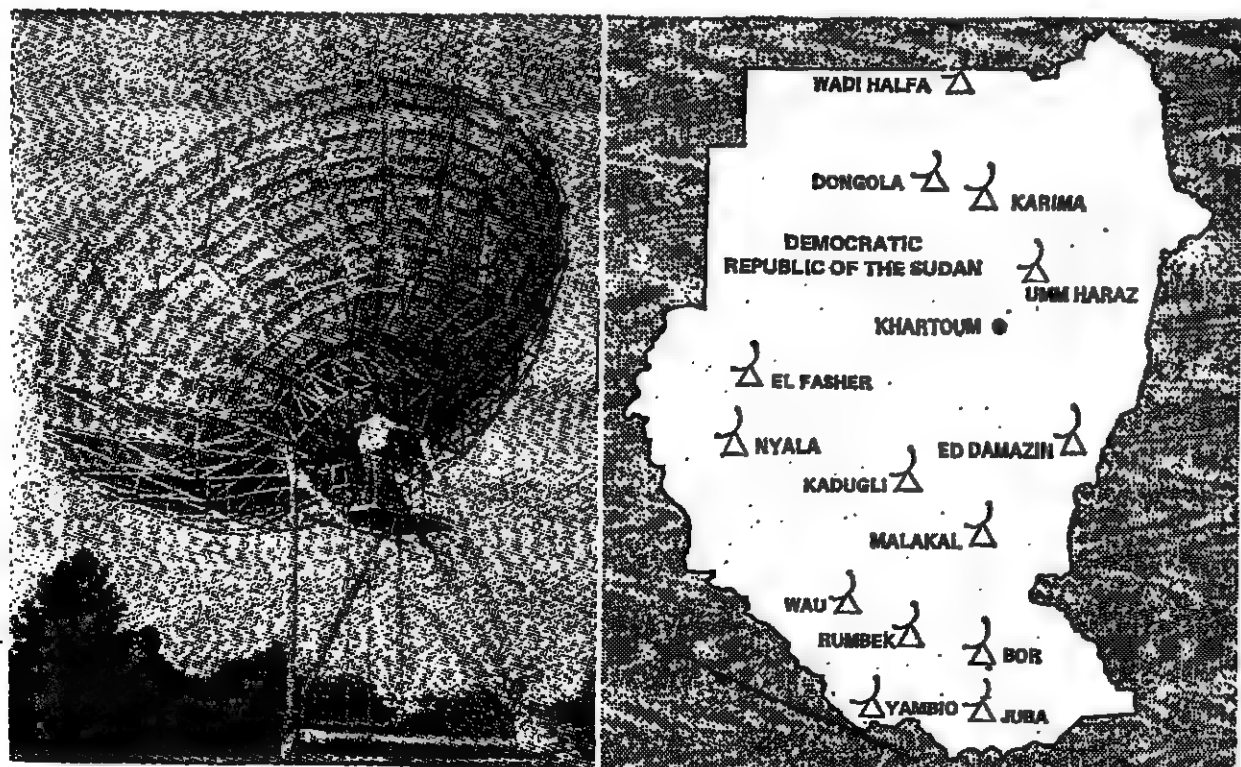
An extensive aero-magnetic and satellite mapping survey conducted by Hunting Geology and Geophysics for Chevron, which holds all of the on-shore exploration permits, showed that there was the right depth of sedimentary basin for oil. After recent seismic surveys of the area, which under terms of the Petroleum Resources Act of 1972 must be reduced by 25 per cent after the first year of exploration and 12½ per cent after the second and third years so as to ensure implementation of the prospecting programme, Chevron intends to start drilling in southern Sudan late this

year. Already, along the concession, in Chevron has put down

three wells strong indications of oil discovery come there when natural gas was found. As the Egyptian well, which Chevron is drilling in the Red Sea, up the Gulf of Suez, a wider world at large.

However, commercial exploitation of these resources will depend on there being a justifiable market for products. It is the same for all mineral deposits. Low-grade minerals have been discovered though not in particularly large quantities.

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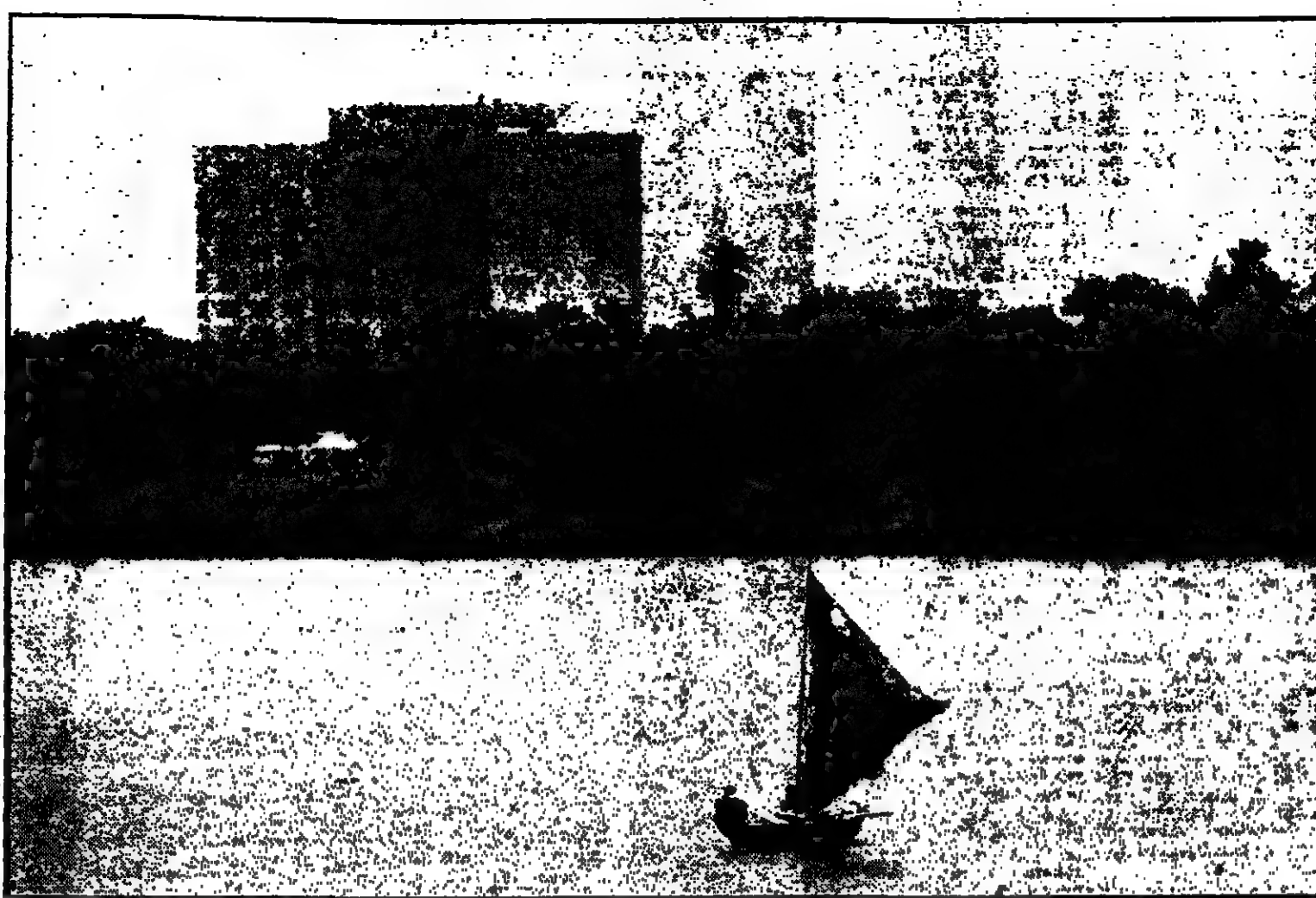
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A visitor's guide by Peter Hopkirk to some of the country's attractions, and travelling the hard way in rural areas described by Peter Clark

Unexploited wildlife is big tourist asset

Probably not every first choice when it is taking a holiday. In any people would be to say precisely it is somewhere in Egypt. Like most other Third countries, Sudan is stock of its tourist and making plans to go into foreign cur-

what has this vast ninth largest country to offer the world—to offer the world beyond the usual and perhaps so much of that at comfort? The chief attraction is its wildlife, perfectly exploited and missing in Africa. The full range of animal and bird life seen in its most state. has, for a start, national parks where shooting allowed is common. The most and accessible is in the south-east of the Blue Nile pro-



its 2,400 square miles a visitor can see and, if he is lucky, water-buck, greater kudu, hyena, ostrich, marabou stork and other species. is a camp which accommodates about 60 in thatched huts. ly it will be ex- and improved to people, with a fur- at a caravan and site. A small air- o be built there. also has 14 game where those with can shoot, for it is he richest big game country anywhere. are mostly to d in the south, a oed to hunters and throughout the 17 strife there. dimension in Afri- ding recently began arrival of Arab oil and their falcons. them fly to Khar- en charter small from the local Air vice Company to n and their preda- to the game area. y hunt down the species of game. r of Sudan's attrac- its Red Sea coast: e coral reefs and

marine gardens have so far been little exploited. Those who have swum there say that it is one of the best diving areas in the world, with water of exceptional clarity and free from pollution. A 90-bed tourist village has been built at Arousa, north of Port Sudan, where the visitor can indulge in sea fishing, underwater photography, skin diving, water skiing or just old-fashioned bathing. Near by is the "ghost" port of Suakin, once a jewel of Islamic architecture, but today only a picturesque ruin. Most regions of the country can be reached either by Sudan Airways or by train, and journeys to more remote parts made from there by road. Only a few hundred miles of the country's road network is tarred, so road travel can be very rough going and exhausting. The best time to visit Sudan is between December and April. The summer can be oppressively hot. Nobody would pretend that Khartoum, despite its romantic and bloodstained history, is of much interest to the tourist. In neighbouring Omdurman, where the young Winston Churchill took part in a cavalry charge under Kitchener, there is an interesting museum centred on the battle, while in Khartoum the visitor is shown the spot where Gordon died. However, Khartoum is the starting point for all expeditions into more rugged parts of this vast country, for this

is where anyone arriving by air first puts down. The biggest event so far in the history of Sudanese tourism will be the opening, in four days' time, of the new Hilton Hotel, an oasis of air-conditioned comfort in an otherwise uncomfortable landscape. From its ninth floor can be enjoyed the best view from anywhere of the three-town capital—Khartoum, North Khartoum and Omdurman—as well as of the Blue and White Niles. For it is from here that the two great rivers meet for their long journey northwards to Egypt and the Mediterranean. All 295 rooms overlook one or the other river. Most tourists, however, will not want to linger in

Roughing it with the aristocrats

A train journey in Sudan is a leisurely and exciting experience. It takes up to four days to travel the 750 miles of single track from Khartoum to Nyala in southern Darfur. You can take a first-class sleeper and eat like a king, and the cost of the journey is equivalent to the air fare. Such a journey is an enforced rest. The gauge is narrow and the train rarely exceeds 30 mph. Several hundred passengers travel on the roof. They include families, children, old men and women, inevitably over the days and nights the odd passenger falls off. The cry "waga min jawa" (he has fallen from on top) passes from carriage to carriage until it reaches the driver. Traveling on the roof is not officially encouraged, but the humanity of the Sudanese is such that at the next station where there is a section of double-track, the engine uncouples and goes back to collect the fallen passenger. However, most Sudanese when they travel go by lorry. There are still only a few hundred miles of tarred road in the country, and in the north most places are accessible only by desert track. The lorries are loaded with freight and take passengers. Many lorries are driven by their owners, but some merchants may own a fleet of them. There are few places that are not within reach of a lorry route, even if it is only once a week. The passengers can travel either in the cab with the driver—there may be four who squeeze together—or on top. To travel in the front you pay the driver a fixed price which is roughly £51 for 50 miles, though this rate may vary in different parts of the country. The rate for travel on the back is usually half as much and accommodation varies according to the freight. A couple of days reclining on a cargo of ostrich feathers (rare these days) is quite a different thing from reclining on steel girders. Those who travel in front are treated as the guests of the driver. He pays for any incidental expenses. Indeed, he is an aristocrat who is proudly conscious of his responsibility for the safety of 40 passengers and £51,000 of freight, or more. He usually has two boys to perform,

under his direction, the more menial tasks like changing the oil of the wheel. Hotels and resthouses exist only in the larger towns. Many, perhaps most, Sudanese sleep at night in the open air—either on a roof, in a veranda or in a garden. Many wayfarers and poor sleep in the open. For the night, the more intrepid traveller need take a blanket—only for the night desert air can be cold—and a camp bed or a rush mat, a birch, on which to sleep. I used to worry about snakes, scorpions and evil hostile insects. I have seen few of these in my time here, but my imagination used to make up for what I never saw. I mentioned my fears to a friend from western Sudan, who invariably sleeps under the stars. I asked him how to guard against snakes at night. "The only thing to worry about is the python. To avoid being swallowed whole, you should sleep with your arms and legs wide apart, starfish fashion." Away from the lorry routes there are other means of transport that are readily available, cheap and thoroughly enjoyable. In most villages in northern Sudan there is usually a supply of donkeys. These can either be hired for a small amount (25 piastres or 35p a day) or even borrowed for nothing. The donkey is a sturdy animal in sand. He can carry your luggage and his pace is tranquil. The view of the world from the back of a donkey is distinctive. Every tree, every hedge, every house, can acquire a deep significance. You can contemplate these things and appreciate their individuality. Every person met on the track is a friend with whom you have a brief conversation. There is no rush, no bustle, no strain. Donkeys are not common in the south but the more intrepid traveller can get a similar pleasure from cycling around the region. In the old days British district commissioners used to cycle about to dispense justice or medicines and gather taxes of support. One old friend who used to work in Uganda 30 years ago tells me he used to bicycle up to Torit, taking two days, to visit an old school friend. I recently heard of a man who cycled from Alexandria to Juba. The less adventurous could take their bicycles by air to Juba or Wau and set off from there. The tracks are good for cycling, and many villages are accessible only by narrow paths. The traveller has to choose his time carefully. April to June are fearfully hot; July to October is the rainy season, tracks are churned up and most transport comes to a stop. November to March are delightful: constant gentle sunshine and invigoratingly cool nights. Most small towns have cafés where the food is good and cheap. A plate of beans can cost a few piastres, and is filling and tasty. Meat is cheap, and a plateful with extras can cost less than 50p. The small towns often have markets which produce brought from the capital or from local villages. Careful searches will uncover many attractive things of interest: local decorated earthenware, leather-work for camel, horse or donkey harness, articles fashioned from broken-down cars such as swords or throwing knives, or from petrol tins, such as oil lamps or blood cuppers. The most overwhelming impression that the traveller will get will be the people. One is often astounded at the generosity and thoughtfulness of complete strangers. It is sometimes difficult to know how to make one's return. However, in the remotest places there are frequent shortages of fruit, cigarettes or medicine. A packet of good cigarettes can be greatly appreciated. A pet-killing pill may give relief to a sick person. A few oranges may introduce sweetness into an otherwise monotonous diet. The traveller will find courtesy and kindness wherever he goes. There may be some suspicion in remotest places but this will be allayed if he has the necessary documentation—which can easily be obtained in the capital. But his best defence is to answer courtesy with courtesy.

P.C.

P.H.

The author has lived in Sudan for six years and has travelled extensively throughout the country.



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Anthony Sylvester examines the welfare state's role in the economy,
and Peter Clark reports on plans for higher education

Social justice marches with economic development



While the Sudanese Socialist result of the shortage of suitable teachers and equipment rather than any deliberate development as well as that of social justice there is evidently no desire in Khartoum to allow notions of social equality to be turned into a dogma of egalitarianism. At a time when Sudan has been opened wide to private enterprise, both foreign and domestic, the Government will want to watch the social scene carefully, prevent and stamp out abuses and redress justified grievances, for the sake of social peace and political stability, if for no other reason.

Yet the dominant intention is now to make any services provided by the state, including education and health, as helpful as possible to economic development, and some of the provisions of the welfare state, however worthy in themselves, will necessarily remain low in the Government's list of priorities.

That schooling should be meaningful in the practical needs of the nation and its citizens has been understood better in Sudan than in most other African countries. The bias in favour of technical and science-based education at the University of Khartoum goes back to the traditions of the Gordon Memorial College opened by Lord Kitchener in 1902.

Seven students out of 10 at this university read science and professional subjects. The two new universities to be opened late in the year at Gezira and Juba will also favour science-based studies. But this situation does not apply to the Islamic University at Omdurman and to the Khartoum branch of the Cairo University.

This means that out of 24,530 students enrolled at universities and other institutions of higher learning in Sudan in 1976 less than half attended courses directly relevant to economic development. Lack of science-based curricula is often a

But entire areas of formal schooling, catering in 1976 for a total of 1,726,049 children and young people against 1,043,704 in 1971, are under review with the idea of making education more meaningful. An interesting point, now much debated in Sudan, has been made in a recent International Labour Organization mission report to the effect that every stage in education should be reformed to provide useful guidance to life and work rather than merely serve as a preparation, in most cases futile, for the next stage.

The contention is that many Sudanese have regarded their years of formal schooling as a waste of time because they were unable or unwilling to continue their work at school to reach a higher level of education. In adult education campaigns too, aimed at increasing the percentage of people who can read and write from 20 to 70 over the next six years, emphasis is on functional literacy.

In the matter of health intensified efforts to prevent or fight disease are highly relevant to economic development as large numbers of working days are lost in Sudan because of the incidence of such scourges as malaria which is endemic throughout Sudan and affects perhaps 20 to 25 per cent of the population.

Water-borne diseases, including bilharzia, seem to have spread with new irrigation schemes. But many diseases have been brought under control. The number of new cases of tuberculosis reported to hospitals fell by a third between 1968, when it was about 400,000, and 1974.

One of the plans is now to make primary health care

available for the whole population by 1984, with at least one dressing station (or dispensary) for every 4,000 of population within a distance, if possible, of not more than 10 miles from the people served.

Where social justice may come into direct competition with economic development, in the short run at any rate, as part and parcel of

deliberate government policy is in the current plan to reduce social disparities between one region and another. At present, differences in employment opportunities, incomes and social services are great between, say, Khartoum and Gezira provinces on one hand and Kordofan and the Southern Region on the other.

But the more endowed areas are also likely to have better human resources and infrastructure, which makes them more attractive targets for potential investors. A strong dose of government direction is clearly called for to establish a desirable balance.

But Sudan shows an exceptional degree of social mobility both vertical and horizontal. It has been estimated that more than two million people change their places of livelihood in a single year. At the same time the deep-rooted system of extended family helps to level social differences. It is not unusual for a man of reasonable income to spend half the money on his immediate household and the rest on more distant members of the family. The concept of social classes as familiar in Europe is alien to Sudan.

How rapidly the traditional Sudanese society will change with the economic development and progress on which the country has now embarked is uncertain. The authorities, for their part, want the inevitable transformation to proceed at a measured and controlled pace.

The improving status of

women is a good example of this. Officially Sudan is committed to greater equality between sexes and the principle of equal pay for equal work has been enforced. Women are now found in all the jobs for which they are suited. But for every three pupils in primary schools only one is a girl and the ratio at university level is 1:8.

The pace of emancipation will largely depend on the struggle the women themselves are ready to put up for their rights, for which they have now an excellent opportunity in the Sudanese Socialist Union, where many women are active. In village councils, for instance, a quarter of the seats must be reserved for women. On the other hand, the Government plainly has no intention of offending traditional sentiment, especially in regard to Islamic laws and customs, although many stipulations are being revised by modern and more enlightened interpretation of the Message.

A good example of financial cooperation between the Government, Sudanese voluntary bodies and international assistance is a new children's home for 200 underprivileged boys and girls aged between seven and 20, under construction at Sobat near the capital city. By the 17 multi-purpose social centres for children and adults in Sudan now under construction, it is hoped that something like £5150m will be added by 1983.

The Ministry of Social Affairs is headed by Dr. Fadima 'Abdul Mahmud, noted for her charm no less than for her perseverance. She is the winner this year of a Food and Agriculture Organization award for her contribution to social and rural development.

Mr. Sylvester is author of Sudan under Nimeiri (Bodley Head) £5.

Emphasis is laid on technical degrees

The year 1976 saw several changes in higher education in Sudan. Extensive legislation of November 1975 had reorganized the system of control and new institutions were founded.

The Sudan Government announced that higher education was a development priority. The six-year plan (1977-83) has allocated £5100m to education generally, of which £335m is to be for higher education.

Plans for the two universities founded in 1975—the University of Juba and the University of the Gezira—took shape. The parent institution, the University of Khartoum, made several internal reforms.

Proposals were announced for further institutes in the West and the East which reflect the Government's aim of administrative decentralization.

The National Council for Higher Education (NCHE), set up in its present form in November 1975, defines the country's objectives. This body, chaired by the Minister of Education, receives reports from the various institutions and lays down the policies within which each institution is obliged to operate.

The Higher Education Grants Committee (HEGC), an executive arm of NCHE, allocates funds to each institution, controls the distribution of scholarships and overseas assistance, and is also responsible for detailed planning.

The two new universities are seen not as copies of the University of Khartoum, not as places of academic elitism, but as centres that will serve the whole country.

The University of Juba aims to emphasize training and skills relevant to rural development. It will concentrate on the conservation of natural resources, and plans to have a widespread network for adult education.

The European Development Fund (EDF) has shown interest in the University of Juba. The Inter University Council for Higher Education Overseas, which has had a long history of involvement with Sudan, has arranged a visit of academics from Europe this month, on behalf of the EDF, to assess Juba's staff needs.

The EDF visit was conceived in December, 1976, and the speed with which it has taken place is an indication of the sense of urgency shared by all the parties involved. Such urgency is absolutely necessary if the university is to recruit staff for its first 100 students, who are due to arrive in September.

The University of the Gezira will be concerned with natural resources and agricultural extension. There will also be a Faculty of Economics and Rural

Development, but courses will be inter-disciplinary. The first 100 students will enrol in 1978.

There are hopes that the University of the Gezira will play a prominent part in the United States aid programme to Sudan, which was resumed in 1976.

The Khartoum Institute of Technical Colleges (KITC), a union of formerly independent institutes whose history goes back to 1950, is given priority by NCHE. At present it has just over a thousand students but the plan is to triple this number during the period of the six-year plan.

In the recent past KITC and its predecessors have lacked clearly defined objectives and, in the past year, have not enjoyed the attention of aid donors as much as the new universities. There has been a steady aid contribution, however, from Britain and from bilateral sources.

Sudan suffers from a grave shortage of technical skill, and KITC is seen as the institution that must expand at a fast rate. The University of Khartoum now has 7,000 students. In recent years 70 per cent of its students have been registered for scientific or professional degrees.

Postgraduate studies to be expanded

The past 10 years have seen a steady expansion of undergraduate numbers. Henceforth the emphasis is to be on the extension of postgraduate studies with a particular accent on development disciplines.

The University of Khartoum was quite independent of direct government control until the 1975 legislation. It was also affected by repeated closures, the consequence of a lively student population.

Some university opinion feared that the new legislation would stifle academic independence. However, last year saw several vigorous academic changes made from within. Schools of agricultural engineering and of mathematics have been formed from a number of departments that had hitherto duplicated efforts. A larger number of postgraduate courses—for diplomas and higher degrees—were available than ever before. It was the first year for a long time during which there were no closures.

Proposals have been laid for two further institutes of higher education. One at Port Sudan will be concerned with petroleum studies.

The other is to specialize in arid zone studies and will be in northern Darfur. Con-

tacts have already been made with the United Nations University which, it is to be hoped, will be associated with the Darfur Institute.

Present performance and future plans face a number of obstacles. The most pressing is the brain drain. Many academics, attracted by higher salaries, have moved to the oil-rich states. The migration is temporary but has been sharply felt in the past two or three years. The drain may be regretted but it is a fact of life that cannot be ignored in any plans. It vitiates arguments that there are enough graduates in Sudan.

Another constraint is NCHE's lack of control over studies organized abroad. The University of Cairo has a branch in Khartoum, which provides a second chance to many who were unable to get a university education on leaving school. However, most of the studies offered there are in non-vocational subjects. The number of its graduates thus offsets the professional-academic proportion aimed at by the University of Khartoum and desired by national needs.

Sudan is alive to the problem, and a joint Egyptian-Sudanese committee has recently been formed with the aim of coordinating the University of Cairo, Khartoum branch, with national higher education plans.

The poor performance of KITC and its predecessors has been attributed to the lack of prestige of mechanical and technical subjects. This lack of prestige may well be directly related to absence of incentives. The career prospects and rewards of a university graduate have always been high.

It will be necessary to face and resolve this problem in order to attract the best young brains into technology. In spite of the genuineness of the Sudan Government's commitment to higher education, and its generosity in the financial allocation of the six-year plan, it is clear that foreign assistance will be needed. Individual countries have been and will be faithful in their interest. Group donors such as the EDF may well make the biggest single foreign contribution in the next decade.

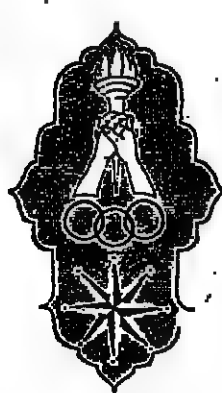
Sudan's economic importance rests in its great potential as an agricultural exporting country. The production of people qualified to manage and expand its economic development requires a sound system of higher education.

Sudan's hope is that the interests of wealthier countries which have benefited from the export of skilled Sudanese manpower, will assist in the development of its educational services.

Mr Clark has worked for the British Council in Sudan for the past six years.

Clamour for change will grow

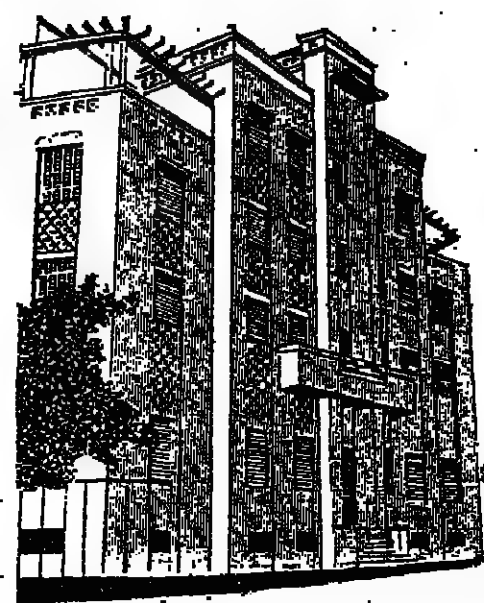
Clamour for social changes and improvements is bound to grow as education spreads. A modicum of welfare state has already been created by the present regime, including minimum wage, state pensions, free education and medical services and food and housing subsidies. But many social evils, such as juvenile delinquency and prostitution, have increased



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Isobel Clark writes about today's culture, and John Gowllett examines the heritage from which it springs

Song and dance are at the core

Used by many Sudanese to describe the 1920s in an essay published by Khartoum University Press, *Conflict and Identity*, tracing the struggle of poets to find their identity in Africa as Africans, and their coming to terms, the poetry of today symbolizes a harmony between African feeling and Arabic language. Music is linked with poetry in that the form most popular in Sudan is the song, accompanied by the oud, an Arabian lute. Poetry and song are inseparable, but the area richest in song is Nubia. Muhammad Wardi and Qahli are singers known to every Sudanese, singing both traditional and modern songs based on everyday life and events. The style remains traditional, however, without the western divisions of popular, traditional and classical.

Apart from songs and the music of ritual indigenous to Sudan, orchestral and other music is recent and not yet well established. Incidental music for the theatre is developing, but at present tends to be derivative.

But music has always been essential to Sudanese culture, and there are many local drums, pipes and stringed instruments. In the south music echoes through the forest, without the player being seen.

Songs are a means of commenting on events, exchanging news, giving information, expressing emotion, celebrating rituals. Culture is mainly oral, and so songs and dances are central, not peripheral as in the West. Drama thrives, understandable in a country so

rich in tribal ritual. The play *Al-Nahd* sees a tremendous future for non-formal drama based on this. He has written a play with university students, *The Crowning of the Reith*, inspired by the installation of the Reith (King) of the southern Shilluk tribe living on the White Nile around their capital at Fashoda.

Such ritual, in this case the possession of a man by the spirit of a tribal ancestor to raise him to kingship, is a source of creative symbolism immensely valuable to a modern Sudanese theatre.

Formal theatre achieves high standard

More formal theatre also exists, with the National Theatre in Omdurman and a recently formed company of experienced actors of excellent standard. There are a number of well-established dramatists writing for this at present, though in the past it has leaned heavily on Egyptian writers. The plays tend to deal with the family and community, and are always in Arabic, which means, unfortunately, that foreign visitors are excluded. This is also a difficulty with poetry and fiction.

Cinema is in its infancy, but a film has been made recently based on a story by Tayib Salih, *The Wedding of Zein*, set in a northern Sudanese village, and an im-

pressive documentary on Sawakin, the ruined island port on the Red Sea was made some time ago by Husayn Sharif.

Tayib Salih is one of the few Sudanese writers to have established a reputation outside the Arab world. Much of his work has been translated into English, and he has been beautifully re-created community life in small northern villages. His novel *Season of Migration to the North* deals with one of the most difficult problems of today: the Sudanese educated abroad trying to settle back into a society where he no longer fits.

Fiction is like poetry, in that under the sophisticated art form lies a wealth of oral myths and tales of all kinds. The Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Dr Francis Deng, in *Dinka Folk Tales*, has published a selection taken from his own people, the Nuer, Dinka of Southern Kordofan.

The fine arts have been greatly helped by the College of Fine and Applied Art within the Khartoum Institute of Technical Colleges founded in the 1950s by Jean-Pierre Greenlaw. Thanks to its courses there are many artists working today both in and outside the country. For these, the ancient Pharaonic culture, and its Sudanese counterpart in the Meroitic civilization of the Nile valley from about 600 BC to AD 200, has been a source of inspiration, as well as the church murals of Christian Nubia.

Islam, however, has never encouraged pictorial art, so

that painting is fairly new in Sudan. As a result it began by leaning heavily on western art, and it is only now finding its Sudanese identity, with artists taking images from their childhood environment, like Mahjub al-Fil, the painter of Nubia, or Ibrahim al-Salabi, an older artist whose inspiration is the colourful ritual of the Sufi orders of Islam common in the Sudan.

Ivory carvings fill the souvenir shops in Khartoum, produced in the workshops of Omdurman. Carvers learn by apprenticeship to masters, but the art is dying, and few really good carvers remain. There are two reasons for the decline. It is not an indigenous art, but was created by the British colonial officers, many of whom were familiar with the ivory carving in India. Thus, it began modelled on an alien art form and never became truly Sudanese. With the end of British rule in 1956, the demand largely died out. Second, elephant hunting is now firmly controlled, so that supplies of ivory are both dwindling and expensive, and shops are demanding high prices.

The arts are flourishing, and, thanks to the ending in 1972 of the 17-year north-south civil war, the south is making an increasing contribution. A number of writers are emerging, such as Lino Roll Deng, whose story *The Lame Tree*, published through the Ministry of Information, is based on a southern village and shows great promise. Poetry is also being written in the south in both English and in local languages.

The main problem today is the lack of channels of communication between artist and public, with the lack of an established centre for selling work. At present paintings and objects d'art can be bought only from exhibitions, though one or two shops are beginning to stock things. The recently completed Friendship Hall for the first time provides permanent exhibition halls and a modern theatre, but writers in particular need more opportunities for publishing their work locally. This, however, is an illusion; the fact that so much is being created in Sudan will in itself cause the pressure that will eventually solve the problem.

I.C.

The author is arts editor Sudanow magazine.

Excavations at Khartoum prove revealing

an archaeological which is both rich in its variety of pleasures for visit the sites are beautiful scenery, a sense of uniqueness which gap of time.

any years, early up the Nile back details of lying far beyond of Egypt. Excavations such as those nineteenth-century Linat de Belle have a value in ruins which deteriorated, such as at El Kab, or elace at Sennar. rly this century at main outlines of archaeology have only established, some regions work beginning. A long sequence is such the north by the and Meroitic s, which are fol- the Christian and gods. regional cultural e found such as Sultanate in the he Funj Kingdom ue Nile, while in e of the country has passed into ly recently. urprisingly, much

early work was concentrated on the fine Egyptian period remains in the north, and especially on the monuments and towns of the separate, though related, Meroitic civilization which developed after the New Kingdom occupation, lasting from about 650 BC to AD 350. An inscriptions are few, and those in Meroitic not understood, more exact dates are difficult to establish beyond dispute.

Before the First World War the temples of Meroe were excavated by Garstang, and the cemeteries with their characteristic steep-sided pyramids were excavated by Reisner between 1920 and 1923. Wellcome carried out investigations on neolithic sites farther south at Jebel Moya, assisted in 1913-14 by O. G. S. Crawford, later to be founder of the journal *Antiquity* and who maintained a keen interest in the archaeology of Sudan for more than 40 years.

Working in the 1940s, A. J. Arkell established the presence of Achaulean stone tools which anted to a prehistory dating back at least 100,000 years, and probably much longer. Arkell also excavated at Khartoum an advanced pre-neolithic facies with the earliest pottery known in Africa (about 6,000 BC, now known

as the early Khartoum tradition, and a distinctive neolithic facies at the site of Shabekab near by.

Other early Khartoum sites on the White Nile have been excavated by Professor J. D. Clark and colleagues, and there is convincing evidence that these fishing camps were associated with a much wetter climate than in the present. Near Khartoum, a Polish expedition is excavating a neolithic site at Kadarn, where the early presence of cattle is an important feature.

The construction of the higher Aswan dam led to an unprecedented spate of archaeological activity in Nubia during the 1960s, when in an international effort coordinated by the Sudan Antiquities Service, a determined attempt was made to prevent the loss of archaeological treasures beneath the rising waters.

Fortunately for the tourist who cannot leave Khartoum, many of the most important results of this work may be seen in the National Museum near the confluence of the Nile, including the temples of Buhen and of Sennar East, dismantled block by block under the direction of Professor Fritz Hinkel, and re-assembled after a journey of 700 miles. Inside the museum

are the beautiful frescoes of the Christian cathedral of Faras, which were covered during the rescue campaigns.

Another museum in the Three Towns is that of the Khalifa's House in Omdurman, where the remains of the Mahdiya (1885-1898) and the Reconquest (1896-1898) can be seen.

The historic reasons for a concentration of archaeological activity along the Nile are thus obvious, but the Antiquities Service has been developing a coherent national policy which will pay attention to all regions of Sudan. A provincial museum at El Obeid in Kordofan has been reorganised recently, and further west a museum is being developed in El Fushar.

Increasingly, young Sudanese archaeologists will carry out fieldwork as part of their own natural development, but foreign expeditions are always hospitably received, and indeed Madame Schiffr Giorgini has recently been decorated in acknowledgment of her leading part in the excavation and restoration of the temple complex at Soleb. With modern air travel, most visitors arrive at Khartoum directly, rather than by rail from Egypt, and this has tended to take some emphasis away from the less accessible sites in the north. Fortunately for the needs of tourism, some of the most remarkable sites can be reached from Khartoum fairly easily.

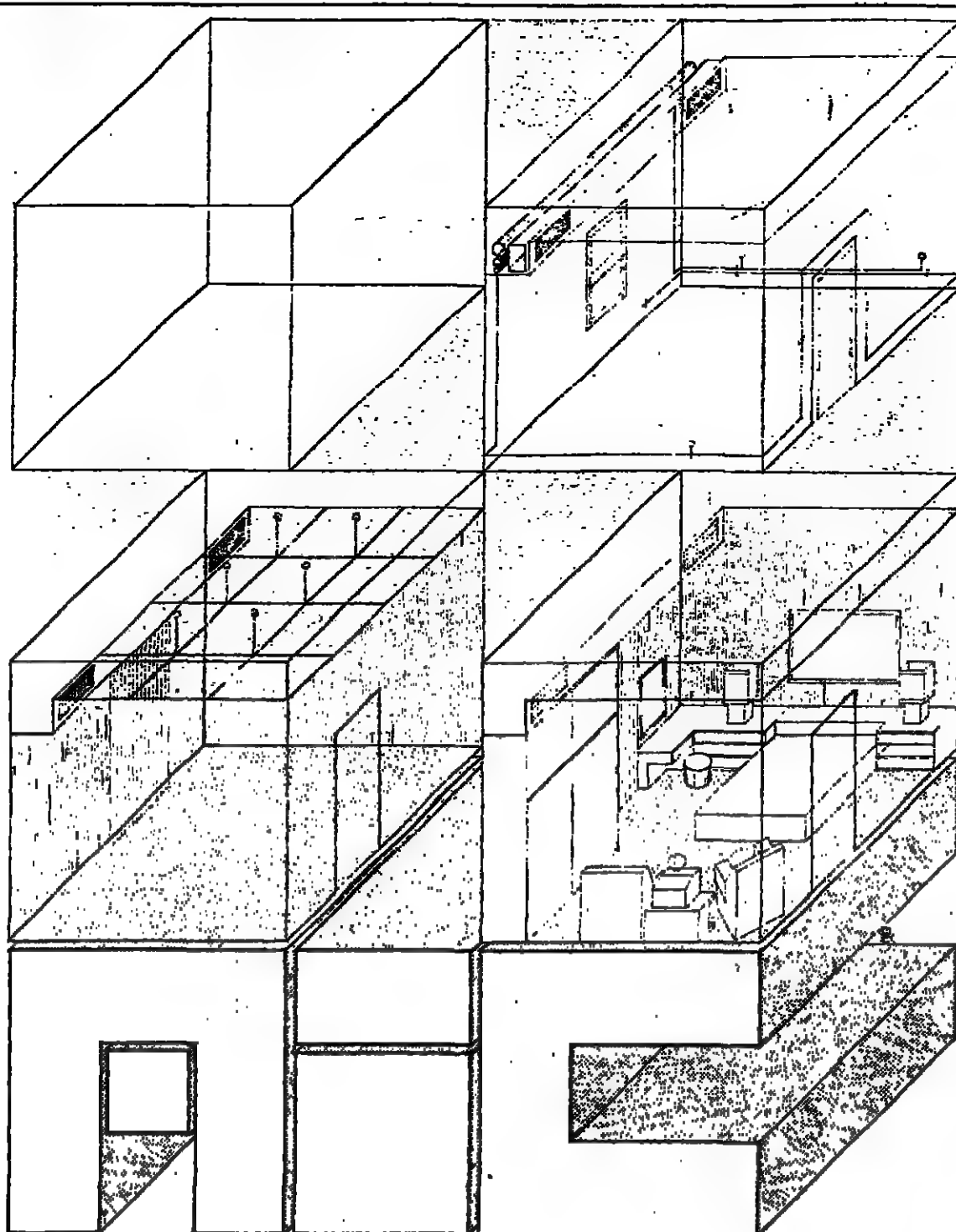
Restoration of royal pyramids

At Meroe, 200km north of Khartoum, where recent excavations by Professor P. J. Shinnie have provided more detailed information about the town and its iron working, a much improved rest house means that visitors can spend the night on the road, with time also to see the neighbouring sites of Musawwarat es-Sofra and Naga, all in a two-day trip. Professor Hinkel, having completed restorations at Musawwarat, is now aiding the Antiquities Service in the restoration of the royal pyramids of Meroe, and has plans to begin work on the deserted Red Sea port of Sawakin.

For years, thanks to the civil war, archaeology in southern Sudan was neglected, but it is possible that licences for surveys may be granted soon.

Sudan has not yet provided the evidence of human evolution that has been found in some neighbouring countries. Geological circumstances in various parts of the country do, however, suggest the possibility of an archaeological record that can be counted in millions rather than in thousands of years, and prehistoric sites that could be excavated, were the resources available, abound almost everywhere. J.G.

The author is lecturer in archaeology, Khartoum University.



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MCALPINE AT KENANA



Sir Alfred McAlpine & Son AG, a member of the Sir Alfred McAlpine Group of Companies, is undertaking contracts valued at some US\$70,000,000 for construction of irrigation canals, pump stations, concrete foundations and paving at the Kenana sugar project, near Kosti, in the Sudan. Pictured is one of the pump stations under construction with main intake pipework in the background. Just recently, McAlpine also completed a joint venture contract for 500 miles of oil products pipeline between Port Sudan and Khartoum.

The Sir Alfred McAlpine Group has long been established in Southern and Central Africa and worked extensively in Zambia, Kenya, Malawi, Botswana and Mauritius. It is also very active in the Middle East, with offices in Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates. The group's activities cover all aspects of building, civil engineering, pipelining, dredging, quarrying and mining.

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Anthony Sylvester on the deep South after 17 years of strife

Peace prevails despite unit's mutiny

On the anniversary of the Addis Ababa accord and regional autonomy for the South next month the Sudanese will have every reason to look back over the past five years with feelings of pride and achievement. This can be said in spite of the incident at Juba airport on February 2 when a small unit of anti-aircraft defence is reported to have mutinied. There has been similar trouble in the past, and, as in this case, it was promptly quelled.

Events of this kind may be the prevailing scene of peace and harmony, but they must be measured against the enormous success of having brought the 17-year war to an end and laid the basis for an economic and social development that should eventually help to fulfil the expectations which the 1972 Addis Ababa pact had aroused.

The pact gives the African and largely non-Muslim people in the South self-government and at the same time preserves the unity of Sudan. By 1973, one year after peace, a total of no fewer than 1,190,230 southern people were able to return to their homes from exile or hiding in the bush. In a short time the roads and bridges that had been almost totally destroyed in the turmoil were repaired and life returned to normal.

There is no reason to disbelieve the Sudan Government's claim that any trouble that has erupted is because of the activities of disgruntled individuals rather than any real sense of grievance in spite of the fact that the economic and social rehabilitation of the region has been much slower than hoped for and living conditions remain extremely bad.

More often than not unrest can be traced back to rumour-mongering, understandable in a country with such poor transport and communications. The first serious incident after peace, the riots in Juba in October, 1974, followed a rumour that the planned Jonglei Canal scheme south of Malakal would lead to the settlement of large numbers of northerners and Egyptians on the newly reclaimed land—which is totally untrue. In the case of two mutinies of some southern troops, in

March 1975 and February 1976, false rumour appears to have fed on anxieties about the proposed integration of armed forces in the South.

The integration has now been completed and is regarded by the Government as one of the greatest achievements of the past five years. By the new arrangement a force of 6,000 former Anya Nya fighters is matched by an equal strength of northern troops under the overall command of Major-General Joseph Lagu, former leader of the southern rebellion who signed the peace pact with the Khartoum Government in Addis Ababa.

While each formation of troops basically consists of the men coming from one community, northern or southern respectively, unit commanders incorporate small supporting elements from the other group. The integration has been accompanied by intensive training courses given in Sudan and abroad to southern officers in order to bring them up to the standards usual in the Sudanese Army. How well this scheme will work in practice, of course, remains to be seen. The latest case of mutiny at Juba airport may indicate that discipline in the Southern Command leaves room for improvement without necessarily casting doubts on the integration project as a whole.

More ominous perhaps is the reported involvement in incidents and conspiracies of several members of the regional assembly. Two MPs were linked with the 1974 Juba riots. One, Mr Stephen Lam, was jailed for six months and another escaped. Three MPs were jailed in connection with the mutiny in 1976, one of them being Mr Benjamin Bol, Deputy Speaker of the Assembly. Yet another member of the Assembly, Mr Clement Mboro, ironically in charge of security, was arrested last August apparently for taking part in the conspiracy, led by Mr Sadiq el Mahdi and assisted by Libya, in Khartoum last July. But the subsequent sentence of six months passed on Mr Mboro suggests that his role was only marginal.

At all events, the abortive



me earlier this month of the state of "anxiety" in the region, but resolutely rejected any suggestion that the southerners continued to harbour any legitimate grievances against the North. The malaise appears to be because of the failure of so many understandable expectations to be met. For instance, only 18 per cent of the children of schoolgoing age are able to attend classes. Another irritation is caused by the acute shortage of petrol which brings the entire motor transport in the region to a standstill for periods of between one week and 10 days every second month.

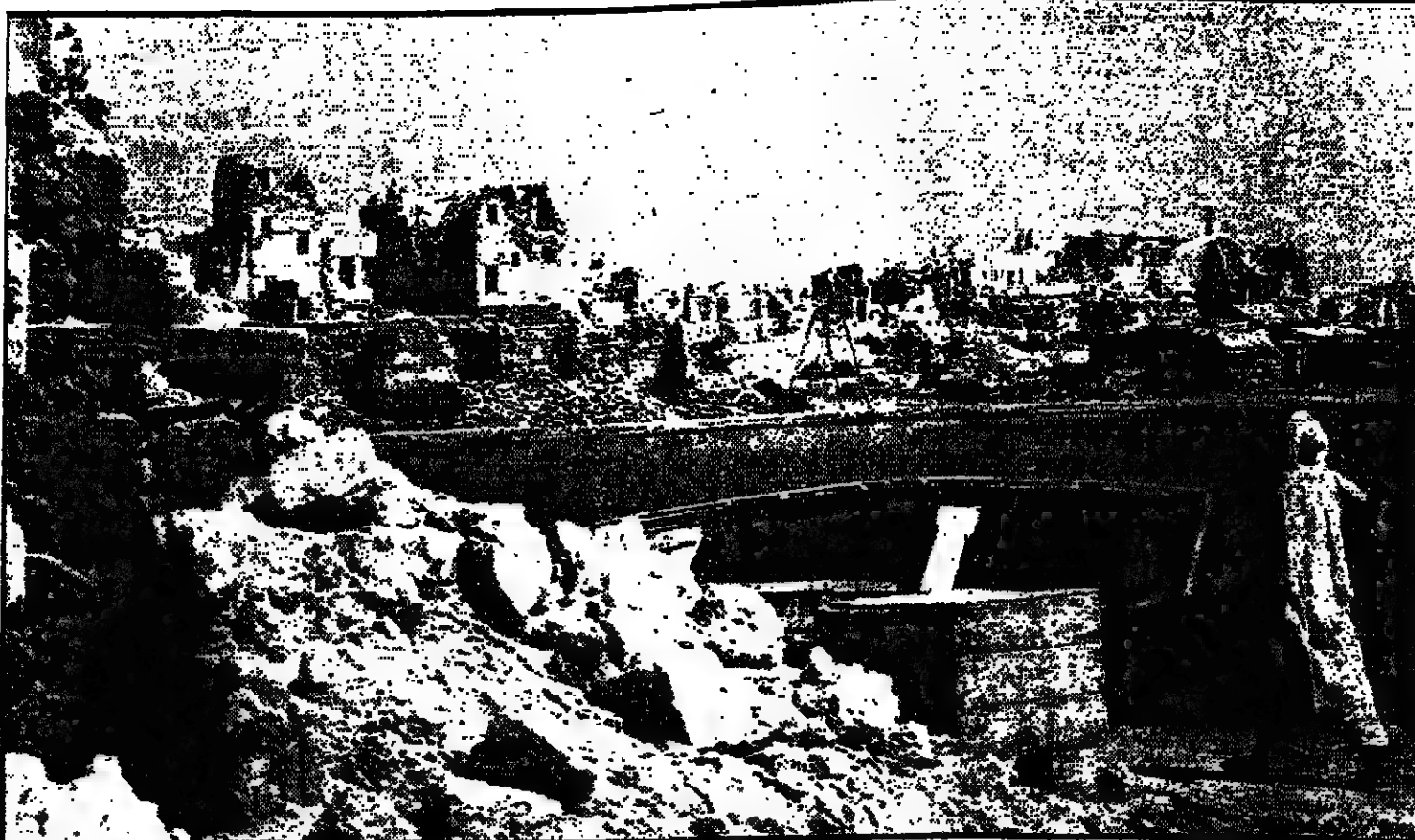
Some southerners may feel that the North is not doing enough to help. Yet out of the regional budget of £517m in 1976-77 only £315m came from the South, the rest being subsidy from Khartoum. In the national six-year development plan scheduled to start next June the South will receive £530m annually over and above the budget subsidy and the money to be spent in the region by ministries and agencies operating from Khartoum.

There is undoubtedly good development potential in the South, especially in forestry, fisheries and the cultivation of tropical crops, such as rice, coffee, tea and tobacco. The sugar plant at Melut will soon be completed for an annual output of 110,000 tons. A similar factory is planned at Mongalla. The campaign against cattle disease, carried out with the help of West Germany, opens up prospects for eventual commercialization on a large scale of the huge livestock resource in the South.

Many other projects are planned and some have started operations. But it will take considerable time before this activity can be reflected in the standards of living of the ordinary southern people. In the meantime the leaders in Juba will no doubt want to strengthen the work and impact of the Sudanese Socialist Union which seems to have struck deeper roots in the North. The organization can help to redress individual grievances as well as mobilize the people for development in self-schemes while generally improving the morale.

A leading member of the Executive Council spoke to

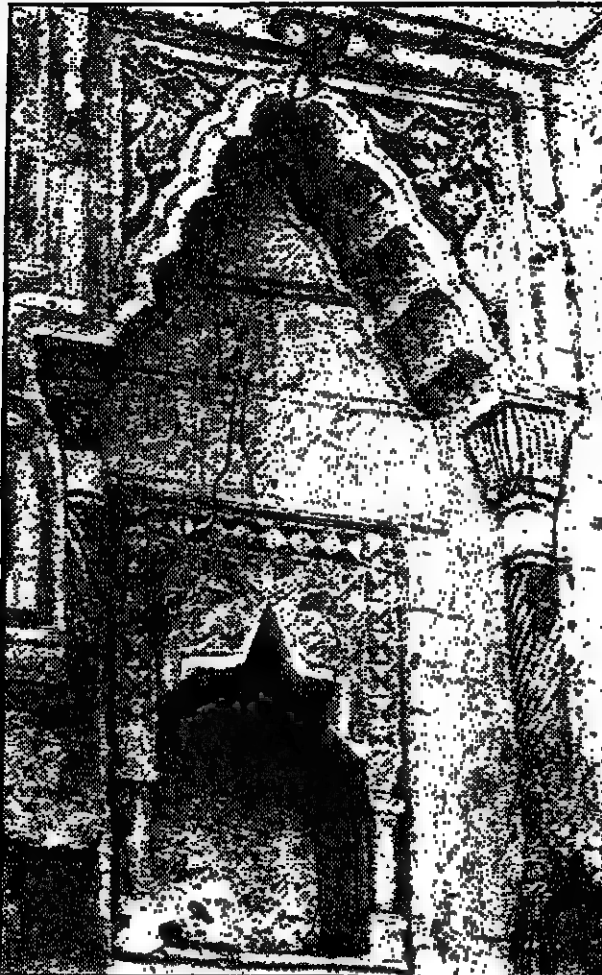
Plans to preserve port of the past



Forty miles south of Port Sudan on the Red Sea stands the "ghost" town of Suakin, once capital of the Beja kingdoms. Today it is used only as a pilgrim

port during the Haj. For a long time it was Sudan's only port until eclipsed by Port Sudan, built in 1909. As these photographs show, Suakin is an

example of a fast vanishing architecture as such is a potential tourist asset, of particular interest to students of Islamic art. There are plans to preserve it.



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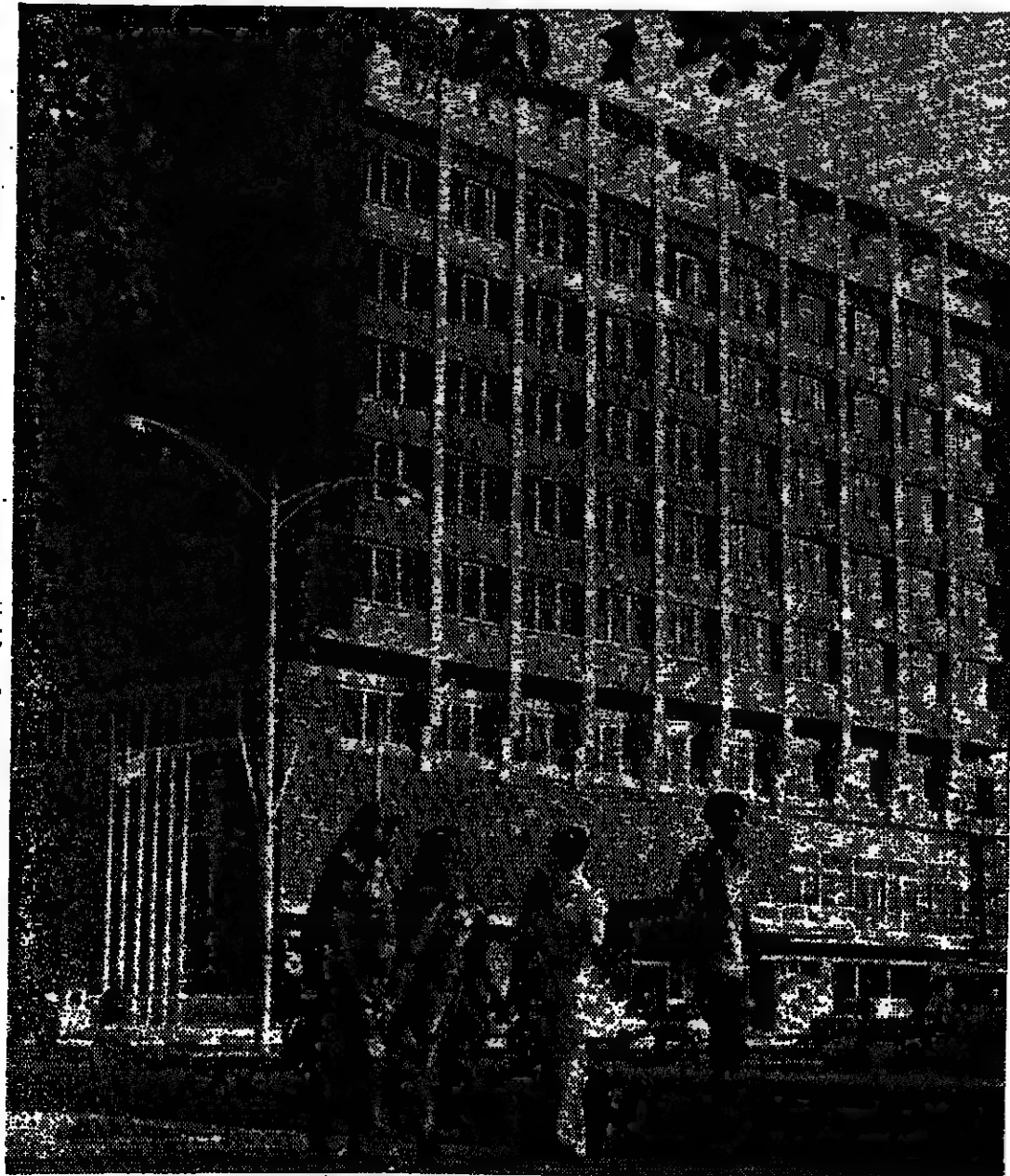
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WILL HUNG UP

Minister's failure to reach a decision on direct to the European Parliament special meeting on the subject yesterday is dis-
cussed in the Prime Minister's speech on the subject yesterday is dis-

ing bill" should receive the royal assent by the end of this month. But this time-table has clearly not been taken seriously by the Government at all. But this time-table assumed that the Government would follow the Select Committee's recommendation in adopting the first round of European elections, the "first past the post" system at present used for electing the House of Commons. There were good reasons for the assumption. The recommendation was supported by the Labour as well as the Conservative members of the Select Committee; and the Government have shown themselves resolutely hostile to the introduction of a proportional electoral system for the Scottish and Welsh Assemblies, in spite of strong arguments of tactics as well as of principle.

GLAMORGAN CORRUPTION CASE

It is not only the time factor which makes this revolutionary proposal seem suddenly attractive to some Labour tacticians. They have also become aware of the drastic humiliation which Labour could inflict on itself by electing its first European member in office at Westminster and under a winner-takes-all electoral system.

BUTTER IN ABUNDANCE

mission from Brussels that butter is being sold outside the EEC at a subsidized price, while provides the sort of heavy ammunition that critics of the 1975 referendum campaign were casting round. The debating force of arguments against Community policy is diluted by the antics of the green pound, a compensatory amount, and the other arguments that govern our food. The butter issue has the appearance of starkness, and even a must admit that it has been allowed to fester out of control. The Commission acknowledged the force of complaint yesterday by rarely blocking the sales, it is by now too late.

in the Sudan

Mr J. H. K. Jefferson
The interesting article by your Correspondent printed on February 22 leaves the impression that there has been no serious attempt to check soil deterioration in the Sudan. The fact that the problem was recognized in 1937, and the writings of Sir Huxley and Steinbeck, the work of the Tennessee Valley Authority stirred the thinking of the Sudanese Government, was set up by the Government in December, 1941. A committee reported in 1944; since that year in 1955 a great deal of erosion work was carried out, and the excavation of some earth reservoirs bringing about

There is indeed little doubt that the "first past the post" system would, because of the much larger constituencies, produce a British delegation to the European Parliament even more absurdly unrelated to the proportions of votes cast than is the present House of Commons, and without the justification that a homogeneous majority is needed to sustain a stable administration. The arguments for PR in the European context are overwhelmingly strong, and it is very encouraging that the Government should at last be taking them seriously even if for reasons of narrow self-interest.

The list system is not, of course, the preferred choice of most British advocates of PR. But it is the commonest system among our European partners. It would therefore not be an inappropriate choice for European elections which eventually are to be standardized throughout the Community, and for a parliament in which each member will in any case have difficulty in maintaining close contact with his several hundred thousand electors. But other forms of PR—for instance the Single Transferable Vote or Lord Blake's "Additional Member System"—need not necessarily be ruled out by the time factor. For by the very fact of being proportional they greatly reduce the importance of constituency demarcation, and thus make the meticulous procedures of the boundaries commissions far less essential.

approach to the police will appear—unless they are very sure of their ground. They have their careers, their families and their mortgages to consider. It was for that reason that *The Times* proposed the creation of a local government inspectorate on the Redcliffe-Maud Committee on Conduct in Local Government, and why we extended that proposal to cover other public bodies in our evidence to the Royal Commission on Standards of Conduct in Public Life. Both inquiries rejected the proposal after careful consideration, the royal commission employing among its arguments the plausible contention that no inspectorate of manageable size could know enough about so many different bodies in the public service as to be effective. But that is no reason for rejecting a local government inspectorate that would offer advice on management procedures, without imposing central control, and would be in the best position to keep an eye open for possible corruption. Such an inspectorate might, for example, have anticipated Mr Justice Watkins's caustic disapproval of the amount of power concentrated in Mr Westwood's hands, as well as providing a good opportunity for any uneasy official quietly to confide his misgivings.

unwashed extra output is stimulated. That is a complaint to which British farming interests have not given a satisfactory answer, though they readily admit the need for some change in the Common Agricultural Policy.

These large chronic surpluses are a clear sign of the malfunctioning of the Common Agricultural Policy, and it is very naturally an occasion for scandal when the surpluses are disposed of on terms advantageous to the consumer while none of the advantage comes to the farmer. The surplus, so long as they continue to be accumulated, should be sold off inside the community either as cheap welfare food to selected categories of consumer (as was tried with beef in 1974), or by a general reduction in the retail price, the effect of which on dairy farmers would have to be cushioned by intervention in the support price. That of course would be a breach of one of the principles of the Common Agricultural Policy. But a breach of a hard principle can be a good thing.

because of the reasons given in your correspondent's penultimate paragraph, the difficulties of action in the face of sociological problems. There is one important aspect to be remembered when dealing with marginal desert areas, and that is that no amount of groundwork will halt a major climatic change: there have been several in the irrevocable history of the Sudan. To accomplish the possible vast sums of money are not required, but the understanding and cooperation of those involved is. Yours faithfully, JOHN JEFFERSON, formerly Soil Conservation Officer, Sudan Government, Nile Wicket, Child's Ercall, Market Drayton, Shropshire, February 23.

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Management of Freightliners

From the General Secretary, NUR
Sir, Sir Dan Petrie's defence of the NCF's performance in managing Freightliners (letter, February 15) is based on grossly misleading statistics. In comparing eight million tons a year with 24 million miles of road collection and delivery to service the Freightliner business, he overlooks the fact that one train carries an average of about 35 containers in doing the job of 35 lorries.

The true figure for comparative purposes is in terms of tonne miles—2,000 tonne miles a year by rail against 200 million tonne miles by road. The idea behind the handover of Freightliners to the NCF was to improve road/rail integration. This is specifically provided for in Section 1 of the Transport Act, 1968. The best commentary on NCF's ability to organize intermodal transport is offered by the fact that over the last three years, the proportion of containers conveyed on rail has always been in conflict with its financial remit to maximize the return on the full range of its investment.

The return of Freightliners to British Rail ownership will widen the scope of rail-based services available to customers by giving access to general merchandise business for premises which are not rail connected and which require door-to-door development. Freightliners would provide another rail option for the movement of merchandise traffic when the primary customers requirement is door-to-door convenience. The more efficient use of the Rail Board's extensive marketing resources will be possible if the customers can be offered this complete range of services without reference to a separate marketing company for container movements.

It is also worth remembering that British Rail's total investment in Freightliner operations is substantially greater than that of NCF. A switch of ownership to BR would bring no organizational problems if Freightliners returned to complete to become a BR subsidiary. The vision of Freightliners as the key to rail integration has failed, and Freightliners remains a predominantly rail-based activity in a road-orientated NCF. The competitive strength of Freightliners lies in its speedy economic trunk haul by rail. Under BR management Freightliners would be the sensible choice of rail for the carrying of that kind of traffic for the road.

Yours faithfully,
S. WIGGELL,
General Secretary, National Union of Railwaymen,
Unit House,
Fleet Road, NW1,
February 24.

Somerset House

From Sir John Bettjeman
Sir, It will be a cheerful thing for London if more Turrens are on view as the result of agreement between the British Museum and the Tate Gallery. So far your correspondents have not mentioned the inestimable benefit to Londoners who receive when this finest square, that of Somerset House, is no longer a car park but a place of quiet and Edinburgh-like dignity off the roar of the Strand. We will also see the staircases designed by Sir William Chambers, the noble gallery of the Royal Academy, the delicate mouldings and grand proportions of rooms unknown for almost two centuries. I, for one, am grateful to the Registrar General and other civil servants who have looked after these rooms and staircases so well and so long and to the Department of the Environment for restoring them.

Yours etc,
SIR JOHN BETTJEMAN,
29 Ranelagh, SW3,
February 24.

W. H. Auden's grave

From Mrs Daisy Swindell
Sir, On Sunday, February 20, we went to visit the grave of W. H. Auden, as usual when there, we went to see Auden's grave, which is in the tiny churchyard of this small village. To our amazement, the grave was covered with the most beautiful flowers. Upon inquiry at the gatehouse opposite, we were told there had that day been a celebration in honour of Auden's seventieth birthday, which would have fallen on the following day, February 21. It seems the whole village turned out—some 300 people, with brass band and choir. It is good to think that whoever else may forget, Auden will always be remembered in this little hidden Austrian village. His photograph is proudly displayed in the village centre for all to see, and the street where Auden used to live is now named Audenstrasse.

Surely a literary person of some consequence in England should communicate with the Burgermeister of Kirchsteurn, and acknowledge the faithfulness of this small Austrian community to a famous Englishman. Yours truly, DAISY G. SWINDELL, 38/13 Millrigasse, Vienna, 1060, Austria.

What Kents drank

From Mr Lawrence Wright
Sir, Kents clearly avoid the wine he wants as "Hippocras", but this, being a fountain on Mount Helicon, would presumably have produced water. Was not Kents a bit fuddled already, and confusing Hippocras with Hippocampus, a cordial of wine and spices?

Yours faithfully,
LAWRENCE WRIGHT,
27 West Street,
Alresford,
Hampshire.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Devolution: a fresh approach

From Miss E. M. O. Laurie

Sir, Mr Timothy Raison's common-sense approach to devolution (in his letter in your issue of February 25) is most welcome, however, and certainly for nearly all purposes of government, such groups continue to have a much greater continuity of interest with the rest of the United Kingdom than they do internally. Such distinctive identity as they do possess certainly deserves some recognition and respect—where this can be given without unfairness to others. But what it does not justify is minority dictatorship of how the United Kingdom as a whole in the twentieth and twenty-first centuries should be governed.

Still less does it justify our continuing to approach important constitutional issues, at the expense of adequate attention to even more important economic and social issues in such a state of preoccupation with the fate of a dozen or two Commons votes in one or two Parliaments as to fan the very extremes of nationalism that so many of us are richly deplored.

Yours faithfully,
MARY LAURIE,
c/o Zoological Society of London,
Regent's Park, NW1,
February 25.

From Mr A. J. C. Kerr

Sir, Following on the loss of the guillotine motion, the only safe course open to the Government is to hold the proposed Scottish and Welsh referenda immediately.

If both countries vote against devolution, the Bill should then be dropped. If Wales votes against, and Scotland in favour, the Bill should be dropped. If both countries vote in favour, the next guillotine motion should also be accepted.

A constitutional conference, at this late hour, will very generally be regarded as a means to waste time until the Tories return to power. In the hope that the Nationalist threat will somehow subside.

It would have been reasonable to hold it after the Tory victory in 1970, or in 1976 as a natural follow up to the White Paper. At this stage, however, it will be seen as one more delaying device, and will impress no one. After so many years of waiting, and so many broken promises, the Scottish people at least expect results, and a conference is not a result.

I am, Sir, Your obedient servant,
A. J. C. KERR,
52 Castlegate,
Leeds, West Yorkshire,
February 23.

Vacant land in cities

From Mr J. W. Burrows

Sir, In his letter to you (February 16) Professor Denham asks: who owns the derelict wasteland in our inner cities? From my own research on the implications of vacant land in 20 of the largest cities in Britain, it is possible to suggest the following general picture.

On average, between 3 per cent and 5 per cent of city land is vacant, with one half to two-thirds of the total outside the inner areas. Within the inner areas, the remaining vacant land forms 5 per cent to 12 per cent of the area. The inner areas of Glasgow and Liverpool, and some East End London boroughs have over 10 per cent of their land vacant, representing some 300 hectares to 400 hectares in each case.

Where ownership records do exist, the general picture appears to be that of a fairly even split between local authority owned land (about 55 per cent of the total) and privately owned land, although of

Volunteers in Spain

From Mr John Peet

Sir, It would be interesting to hear the evidence for Laurence Correll's claim (New Books, February 10) that during the Spanish Civil War "what was seen as the cause of the Spanish war was drawn its main support in this country from the middle and upper classes".

The most direct form of support for the Spanish Republic was, of course, that given by the 2,010 British volunteers who served in the International Brigades. The overwhelming majority certainly came from the labour movement (Commonwealth Labour Party, trade unions) and not from the

Censorship of erotic art

From Mr Richard Hamilton and others

Sir, In the light of your admirable editorial about Charter 77 and the defence of human rights, we want to draw attention to some recent events which are insults to the intelligence of our people. The same newspapers which come easily to the defence of rights of Czech and Russian dissidents report blandly how freedoms are eroded in this country: in the past few weeks a young woman was fined £2,500 for showing a film in a private club in London which has been playing in public cinemas in New York and in the Champs Elysées in Paris for many years; the extraordinary last film of the late, great Pasolini has been totally suppressed in England; last week, collaborative art work by Richard Hamilton and Dieter Roth has been emasculated at the ICA for fear of cheap press attacks on how a few quid of public money is being grossly misused.

Apparently it has not always been so. The British Museum and even the collections of her Majesty the Queen include thousands of good and bad examples of erotic art and literature as far back as art goes. These collections are fully supported by the state. Erotic art will always be made because it is about sex, and sex is a part of life, and even happiness. Where is the "new gaiety"? Tony Crosland said we needed 20 years ago? In your Crosland obituary on Monday, you singled out the following responsible words of his: "While a puritan government of one's own life is admirable, a physical attitude towards the lives of others is revolting."

We want to urge intelligent people in the press, in our great political parties and in our Councils of Arts to help complete the grand sense of freedom we talk a lot about. Debate should now be joined in the actual defence of some of these freedoms, even if, in Shakespeare's words, you have to "use your wits as hard as you can". Yours faithfully, RICHARD HAMILTON, DAVID HOCKNEY, R. B. KITAJ, 2 Pembroke Studios, Rembrandt Gardens, W8.

Distribution of honours

From Professor Joel Hurstfield

Sir, I cannot endorse Mr Lewis's proposal (February 22) to end the present patronage system as perfected under the Wilson-Falkender benefactions in favour of "a council of impartial men and women to distribute these titles. To create a consortium of retired judges, academic pundits, eminent civil servants, wealthy industrialists, ex-military and naval officers, and a whole tribe of establishment figures would simply lead to the reward of other establishment figures and of dependants of the new patrons.

Surely it is better to keep the present system. We know how peerages are now given, and we value them as such. I do not desire a man the more for the less for his peerage. I have other ways of judging his worth. And at least the present system is a source of innocent amusement. So come back, Marjorie, all is forgiven!

JOEL HURSTFIELD,
7 Glenfield Road,
Hampstead, NW3.

Tree planting

From Miss Joy Griffith-Jones

Sir, I have followed with interest the correspondence in your newspaper following Lady Kew's excellent suggestion that trees should be planted to commemorate the Queen's Silver Jubilee but no one has yet come up with the idea that these "commemorative trees" should be considered.

When we are being exhorted on all sides to grow more food from our own resources it surely behoves us to give serious thought to the planting of species such as the Honey Locust, a tree which can be grown in fully districts, producing a high yield of beans—up to 1,000 pounds of beans per tree per year—and which can be grown in areas unsuitable for other crops. It is a tree which can be grown in areas unsuitable for other crops. It is a tree which can be grown in areas unsuitable for other crops.

Yours faithfully,
JOY GRIFFITH-JONES,
Editor, The Soil Association,
Walnut Tree Manor,
Haughley,
Stowmarket,
Suffolk.

New York and Concorde

From Mr R. H. Firth

Sir, The letter from Dr K. A. Long (February 23) prompts one to ask why New York should be bullied into accepting Concorde. If it is not wanted on grounds of noise and environmental considerations, this attitude should be respected. There are many people in this country who have strong sympathy with the people of New York. Yours sincerely, R. H. FIRTH, 40 Kingsfield Road, Beccles, Suffolk.

Rockall

From Mr N. P. Reilly
Sir, Many of your correspondents base the British claim to Rockall on several landings made by the Royal Navy in the 19th Century. But surely the Act of Union became law in 1801 this Navy was the Navy of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland.

Would partition be a solution? Yours faithfully, NOEL PATRICK REILLY, 162 Cowley Road, Oxford.

THE TIMES

BUSINESS NEWS

OBITUARY
MR ANTHONY
Fine player of

State industries big switch in reliance on outside finance

By Brown
The state-owned industries are switching away from external finance to disclosed volume of the state's latest White Paper on public expenditure, yesterday.

The 1977-78 breakdown of the state industries' reliance on loans, public debt capital and the take up of government securities is also lower.

External sources of 1977-78 is shown at 46m compared with 1976-77, while the internal resources are over the period 30m to £2,306m.

The main contributors around will be British 1977-78 British Gas, the state-owned oil company, and the programme from interest and repaying a loan amount of £1.4m.

Rail will continue to rely on government loans even here the amount has been pared back, 1977's total of £498m a of £454m.

Board beyond the

car group takeover 'a brake on development' and ready to seize opportunity

By Vogt
Feb 25
The senior Ford executives told a meeting of foreign correspondents that Ford had only to justify investment plans to itself, while British Leyland was now bound to suffer delays in pushing ahead with new developments because of the involvement of the government bureaucracy.

Mr Caldwell said: "We fully expect to earn our own capital - all we want (in our relationship with the United Kingdom Government) is to be treated perfectly fairly and we are being treated in this way."

The Ford executives said that his company's new Fiesta model had met with an "outstanding" reception in Britain. This new

al shutdown nearer at Leyland

Shakespeare
Little doubt that all Leyland assembly and production will stop if the 10,000 workers strike in next management spokesman day.

He plans start up the weekend the still in production to be the Range Rover, Maserati and cars at Cowley and Coventry, which has this week but where workers are being retrained.

England is making no disguise the fact that the effects of the strike, and that they will have to be

gh talks ahead on N Atlantic flights

Reed
Negotiations from the states Government led by Lord Boyd, a former of the Civil Aeronautics and Secretary of State, arrives in London on Saturday to begin a series of talks with the British delegation, which has been upgraded with a senior civil servant at the head.

According to reports in Whitehall, the British negotiating position appears to be less rigid. This should result in some progress over

the markets moved

Wages 3p to 26p	RKT Textiles 3p to 27p	Bank 3p to 27p
10p to 20p	Rotaprint 3p to 26p	Bank 3p to 26p
10p to 15p	Smith Bros 3p to 25p	Bank 3p to 25p
10p to 10p	Spooner Ind 3p to 25p	Bank 3p to 25p
10p to 49p	Warren Plant 3p to 25p	Bank 3p to 25p
10p to 65p	W. Rand Com 3p to 25p	Bank 3p to 25p
10p to 58p		

Midland 8p to 25p	Bank 3p to 27p
Midland 8p to 25p	Bank 3p to 26p
Midland 8p to 25p	Bank 3p to 25p
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Midland 8p to 25p	Bank 3p to 25p
Midland 8p to 25p	Bank 3p to 25p

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Statements Thos. W. Ward 17 Hearts Of Oak 15

£57,000 paid to Mr Pat Matthews by FNFC

By Adrienne Gleeson
Banking Correspondent

Compensation of nearly £120,000 has been paid by First National Finance Corporation, the secondary bank which last month announced heavy losses for the third year running, to three directors whose service contracts have been terminated.

They are Mr Pat Matthews, architect of the group's meteoric rise ahead of the secondary banking crisis in 1974, Mr John Bardwell and Dr Basil Bard.

Mr Matthews, whose contract had the best part of three years to run, received some £57,000; Mr Bardwell some £20,000; and Dr Bard £40,000. Mr Bardwell's contract had one year to run, and that of Dr Bard nearly four years.

Mr Matthews' director of the group, said last night that he thought it was "a bargain for the company". The compensation payments, which covered both salaries and pension entitlements, were much lower than the expenditure on salaries, offices, cars, secretarial assistance, and increased pensions would have been had the three men remained at FNFC to work out the remainder of their contracts.

The overall payment is revealed in the annual statement of the group, which is being published today. FNFC's chairman, who also disclosed that the company is shedding one of its two sets of auditors, Deloitte & Co.



Mr Pat Matthews: received £57,000 in compensation.

This is, he says, "a step that is mutually regretted but is one that is agreed is necessary as a consequence of the reduction in the group's operations."

Mr Matthews said last night that the management had had discussions with both Deloitte & Co. and FNFC's other auditors, Touche Ross, and had eventually decided that the business should be handed over to the latter part of the audit. The savings were expected to be in the region of £20,000 a year.

Ultra directors likely to approve Dowty bid after Racial drops out

By Desmond Quigley
With Racial Electronics having withdrawn from the keenly contested bid for Ultra Electronic Holdings, the board of Ultra is likely to recommend on Monday acceptance of the £10m Dowty Group bid - unless another potential suitor suddenly appears.

Announcing its withdrawal, Racial said it "believes that its own offer was already realistic and has therefore informed the board of Ultra that it does not intend to proceed with that offer."

Ultra's shares gave up 8p to 208p yesterday, while Dowty shares gained 5p to 288p. Racial accepted the Dowty cash alternative of 210p for every Ultra share rather than the two-for-one share swap, which would have made a profit of about £1m on its 2.7 per cent stake in Ultra which was acquired at a total cost of about £1.3m.

After Racial dropped its bid, Lord Orr Ewing, chairman of Ultra, commented: "I believe we were fortunate to have such forward looking groups courting us. All of us who work for Ultra will do our best to make a success of the marriage."

Ultra and Racial specialise in advanced electronics, while Dowty deals in sophisticated hydraulic systems. It is understood that Racial had succeeded in talking over Ultra's board into being prepared to live off Dowty's Ultra's aviation control systems, while retaining the communications, radar, and other non-aviation devices.

Dowty is understood to have three motives in seeking to acquire Ultra. In the medium term there is a need for it to be able to develop electronic mechanical controls alongside its traditional hydraulics side.

Mr Charles Bracher, financial director of Dowty, commented yesterday that the development of the micro chip was making possible the advances in electronics, as the Swiss watch industry has found to its cost.

Secondly Ultra and Dowty are among the seven suppliers of aviation fuel systems to Rolls-Royce. Mr Bracher confirmed yesterday that Rolls-Royce would like to see a rationalisation of suppliers and added: "I think Rolls-Royce will welcome this merger with Ultra."

Lastly, the acquisition will make Dowty slightly larger and, with the large element of good will it is paying for, may become a more difficult prey for a would-be predator.

On Thursday of last week, Ultra was forced to announce that it had received a possible bid approach after the shares had moved from 75p to 105p and then back to 84p during the day. On Friday, Dowty announced a four-for-three share swap offer, then worth 144p a share. Ultra's shares jumped to 143p.

Last Wednesday Racial announced a straight cash bid of 185p a share, and Ultra's share price moved to 186p a share. The following day Dowty came back with its new offer. Two years ago Ultra's shares hit a low of 7p. The low over the past year was 35p.

Bank signal manages to keep MLR at 12pc

By John Williams
Financial Correspondent

The Bank of England's signal to the discount houses on Thursday that it is not especially happy about the spread which interest rates are continuing to fall prevented a further significant fall in rates at yesterday's weekly Treasury bill tender, but only just.

The average rate on bills allotted fell from 10.324 to 10.7662 per cent, to fall below 10.75 per cent would in theory have led to a cut in the Bank's minimum lending rate from 11 to 11.4 per cent, had the normal market related formula for MLR been in operation.

As it is the formula has now been in suspension since early February, with the Bank holding MLR at 12 per cent regardless of market conditions.

The Bank, however, is clearly keen that Treasury bill rates should not drift too far below MLR, with other interest rates following in their wake.

Over the past couple of weeks the authorities do not appear to have been as concerned as they once were about the slow downward drift in rates as conditions in the money markets eased. But the indication in the middle of this week that rates at yesterday's Treasury bill tender could fall quite sharply led on Thursday, to the Bank requiring the discount houses to take part of their loans at MLR on a seven day basis.

The idea of this was to raise the cost of money borrowed by the discount houses by just enough to make them more conservative than they might otherwise have been in their weekly tendering.

Losses for J Lyons' S African Wimpy

By Our Financial Staff

Unexpected losses of some £3.2m have come to light at J. Lyons' South African Wimpy subsidiary. Revealing this to shareholders for the first time in a document setting out details of recent asset sales, the company says that the losses are due to a combination of omission of liabilities, overstatement of assets, and the crystallisation of guarantees.

Losses at South African Wimpy, which was not included in the sale of Wimpy franchises to the United Kingdom of United Biscuits for £7m late last year, mainly relate to the two years up to March last year.

Lyons has had to change the board and management of its South African Wimpy offshoot, introduce new controls and send funds to meet the liabilities. The business is now said to be trading profitably.

Meanwhile, the document sets out details of the terms on which Wimpy's South African subsidiary, Wimpy South Africa, will pay £2.7m for Lyons' hotel interests in the United Kingdom, and Ireland, apart from the Tower Hotel in London.

Lyons has already received £7.2m in cash from THF together with promissory notes for the balance. These notes, which are negotiable, are issued by THF and unconditionally guaranteed by Finance for Industry, the medium-term lending institution owned by the Bank of England and the leading clearing banks.

Interest on the THF promissory notes is at 5 per cent and they will be redeemed at two-year intervals from the end of 1978 in three tranches of £5m with a final tranche of £5.7m in 1984.

The disposals, together with debt rescheduling measures left Lyons with total borrowings of £242.8m at January 7. The company says that, taking into account the three disposals - that of the hotels, the United Kingdom Wimpy business, and the sale of the American Trolley and interest in Liggett Group - the value of overseas assets now exceeds foreign borrowings by £20m.

The troubles caused by the heavy borrowings taken on by Lyons during a period of international expansion in the early 1970s now seem to be over. The company says that its further major asset disposals are envisaged.

Setback for Pertamina

From Our Own Correspondent
Hongkong, Feb 25

Pertamina, the Indonesian national oil company, has suffered a setback in its efforts to ward off claims by Mr Bruce Rappaport, the Geneva-based oil trader, in respect of its tanker on which there are several contingent liabilities of around \$1,200m (about £766m).

Sanko Steamship the

Fukuda hint boosts yen abroad

The yen soared on the foreign exchange market in London yesterday after remarks by Mr Fukuda, the Japanese Prime Minister, that he would like to see an orderly appreciation of the currency in stable foreign exchange market conditions. In London the yen rose to 282.15 to the dollar against 290 on Thursday's close.

In a television programme taped for broadcasting last evening, Mr Fukuda said that while excessively sharp fluctuations in the yen's exchange rate should be avoided, the Japanese authorities must not engage in a policy of buying up dollars to stem the yen's rise.

He also said he would welcome a lowering of Japanese interest rates, which were above United States and West German rates, since this would prevent possible unwanted currency inflows, and serve to lower the interest rate burden of Japanese companies.

Mr Fukuda was anxious to see a cut in bank rate from the present 6.5 per cent, but he said this was for the Bank of Japan to decide, taking full account of the domestic and international monetary situation.

Bahrain hotel award

A contract worth £2.8m has been won by Cementation International to build a 110-bedroom hotel in Bahrain. Work will begin next month and is scheduled for completion in March next year.

Nuclear brake on Bonn

Licence approvals for West Germany's big nuclear power plant, which have been delayed in deference to the United States government's views on nuclear non-proliferation, government sources in Bonn said yesterday. The sources rejected speculation that the deal, worth DM15,000m (£3,750m) was in danger of collapse.

Opec summit sought

Dr Mansour bin Othman, the United Arab Emirates' oil minister, yesterday called for a summit meeting to resolve a damaging price split in the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries. He made the suggestion in an interview published by the semi-official daily newspaper Al Itihad.

Easing the strain on a bankrupt business

Sweeping changes to Britain's complex and sometimes archaic laws covering bankruptcy and insolvency are expected to result from a far-reaching inquiry being carried out by a Whitehall-appointed committee.

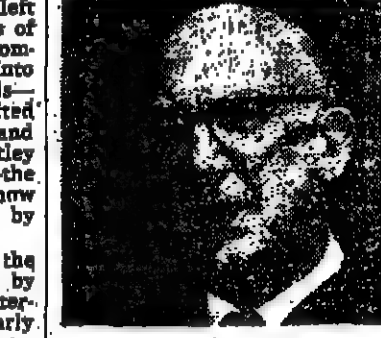
The 12-strong Insolvency Law Review Committee headed by Mr Kenneth Cork, a leading chartered accountant and insolvency specialist, met formally for the first time yesterday. The committee, backed by working parties from leading City institutions, the Law Society and the insurance world, hopes to provide concrete proposals for drafting clearer and more cohesive legislation within two years.

At first the committee is to call for evidence from professional bodies and other interested parties, and then to move down to detailed discussions on ways in which existing laws can be modified or replaced after this year.

But Mr Cork already holds firm views on what he regards as the least effective areas of existing legislation. His firm, Cork & Gully, has been called in to deal with some of the most spectacular corporate collapses of recent years, including Vickers & General, Courage, the Stern Group and more recently Bradford-Nylen.

He believes that the current patchwork of rules and regulations often acts against the best interests of the personalities and companies involved as well as the community as a whole.

His main criticism of the present laws is that on the one hand they often appear far too penal, especially with regard to



Mr Kenneth Cork: Strong criticism of present rules.

bankruptcies, while on the other they often lack teeth in bringing to book directors of companies who have clearly acted unscrupulously, if not illegally.

He feels that the stigma attached to bankruptcy is so great that the unfortunate victim often fails to admit the truth and goes on incurring credit, making losses and trading recklessly, with the effect that the eventual collapse is often much more damaging than it need have been.

"I think it is quite wrong that the full panoply of the bankruptcy provisions often falls on a small man who has simply had bad luck in trading."

"If we can lessen the penalties here while making the rules harsher in the case of those people who have committed abuses, the laws would be considerably more equitable and effective."

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EDITED BY MARGARET STONE

FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

Recovery interest helps week of progress

Share prices rising in the five days of the week of progress in the stock market. Bid and issues continued to be prominently featured, with results from a leading company, ICI, the "beacon" industry.

Yesterday the FT index rose above the 400 mark for the first time in over a year. With the market breathing and some out-of-the-box trading, it is back below that level again to close at 387.7 points over the week.

Reported some good, leading by the FT index and private investors. The market was a bit early and a trade followed by a quiet consolidation to assert itself.

It began with a "recovery" interest in the electrical sector because of the takeover battle for control of Ultra Electronics, which soared 64p to 207p. There was surprise when Dowry's 55.7m share exchange terms were revealed by a 27.4m cash offer from Rascal Electronics, especially as the latter had just emerged from a protracted battle for the

MAIN RISES AND FALLS OF THE WEEK

RISES		
Company	Movement	Comment
p Gill & Duffus	11p to 180p	Commodity prices
p Hoover "A"	23p to 233p	Bullish figures
p Slimma	44p to 86p	Toots! approach
p Ultra Electronics	64p to 207p	Daily-Racial bid
p Utd Solent	27p to 174p	Forecast and speculative interest
FALLS		
p Brit Enkalon	3p to 12p	Trading loss
p Cavenham	8p to 118p	No higher offer from parent
p Booker McConnell	7p to 135p	Small selling
p Manchester Ship	13p to 225p	Profit taking
p Norwest Holst	9p to 83p	Boardroom split

up Britannia fund a home income plan

The Group is emerging as a shell with vigour. The fund is named after the ship which was the first of its kind. The fund is now turned to its offshore Channel Islands. The fund has just launched a Universal Dollar

be an unusual, but mixture of commodities. The fund is named after the ship which was the first of its kind. The fund is now turned to its offshore Channel Islands. The fund has just launched a Universal Dollar

be an unusual, but mixture of commodities. The fund is named after the ship which was the first of its kind. The fund is now turned to its offshore Channel Islands. The fund has just launched a Universal Dollar

Magazines the cost has been rising

Magazines the cost has been rising. The cost of magazines has been rising steadily over the past few years. This is due to a number of factors, including inflation and the cost of paper. The cost of paper has risen significantly in recent years, and this has led to a corresponding increase in the price of magazines. In addition, the cost of labour and other expenses has also contributed to the rise in prices. As a result, many readers are finding it difficult to keep up with the cost of their favourite magazines.

Enkalon struggling back to profits

By Ronald Pullen. British Enkalon, the United Kingdom's largest producer of AK-47 chemical products, which itself produced some poor results on Thursday, managed to do something about its heavy losses last year.

Nevertheless, fierce competition in textiles, low prices, escalating raw material costs and rising interest charges combined to produce another depressing result.

On sales up nearly 50m to £47.1m, with around 12 per cent of the rise due to real volume gains, Enkalon's total dividend rose from £3.5m to £1.79m in 1976.

But in its efforts to hold market share there was precious little leeway for price increases. The decline in sterling pushed up imported raw material costs £2.5m last year with the group's exposure considerably increased by the Flitborough disaster. This forced it to buy caprolactam in hard-currency areas.

Lamson under all-out bid from Moore jumps 57pc

By Ashley Drucker. Lamson Industries, the business forms and office equipment maker, for which Moore Corporation put in an agreed bid for the outstanding 48 per cent earlier this month, turns in 1976 pre-tax profits of 57 per cent to £9.1m. Its best ever was £1m in 1974. Turnover in 1976 improved 15 per cent to £139.4m.

This time round there were no exceptional expenses compared with the £1.1m for 1975, and dividends and interest rose from £418,000 to £613,000.

There was also a credit for extraordinary items of £510,000 against a debit of £121,000. The items relate to the sale of property and winding-off stock and additional tax relief.

Neepsend down again but not stopped

Sometimes recent happenings can seem so distant. Neepsend in special steels and engineering now reports a plunge in pre-tax profits from £781,000 to £249,000 for the six months to September 30.

In 1975, profits were nearly £2m a year. Then the rot set in. In 1975-76 they fell to less than £1.25m. To do as well as that in the year closing next month Neepsend must make around £890,000 in the second six months.

Mr Stanley Speight, and his colleagues do not say that this will happen. But they do say that business picked up in the second half year, and that the year's figures should not be unsatisfactory.

Last September the chairman saw no sign of business turning up, and he pointed again to dumping in special steels. But even then he was looking for better things in the second half year. Meanwhile the company's losses had grown to £1.25m. Last year's net of £1.25m grossed £388,000.

Treasury spoils Dyson payout

With a leap in profits, comes a dividend. The Treasury, which ran a similar policy, has stopped writing new business altogether. However, Save and Prosper, while admitting that its scheme will never be a market winner, has managed to attract a lot of money for the group, has no plans to abandon its own home income policy. Nor has Hambro Life, where the managers are able to speak confidently of the scope for the home income scheme.

So the Old Equitable has bowed out, while its security acquiror, the University Life, which ran a similar policy, has stopped writing new business altogether. However, Save and Prosper, while admitting that its scheme will never be a market winner, has managed to attract a lot of money for the group, has no plans to abandon its own home income policy. Nor has Hambro Life, where the managers are able to speak confidently of the scope for the home income scheme.

Impala paying less and still gloomy

Impala Platinum, part of the Union Corporation group, has cut the second interim dividend from 15 cents to 10 cents a share in the half year to December 31. The company made £17.6m compared with £9.85m. But the second figure was boosted to £17.6 after taking into account exchange losses on devaluation and a change in accounting.

The latest results include a provision for the US\$2.1m award made against the company in favour of Colonial

Hardy recovering from half-time losses

The directors of Hardy & Co (Furnishers) regard the latest setback as temporary. This is as well because pre-tax profits of £1.13m turned into losses of £340,000 in the half year to October 16.

Despite news that the group has been profitable for the second six months, a statement that "a good performance will again be achieved in the future", the shares dropped 5p to 22p.

By contrast turnover rose from £18.2m to £20.7m. This excluded VAT but did include service charges on restaurant

Stock markets Still over 400 and 8.7 up on week

With the problems at British Leyland providing a gloomy background, shares succumbed to end-of-account profit-taking. For a good part of the day the FT index was back below 400 and by 3 pm had reached a "low" of 388.5. From then on there was a distinctly firmer note as buyers came in for the new account and, by the close, the index had cut back to just 0.6 for a final figure of 401.7.

This left it 8.7 ahead over the week and better by 20.2 for the account. In the pre-empted market, the index fell to 388.5, but was reduced to one-eighth, while many "shorts" reverted to overnight levels. After hours, medium and "longs" added another three-eighths, but short dates moved narrowly.

The long slide in Fisons may be ending, but few see a rise. The group's broker, Laing & Crickshank, says buy, but most others say sell or keep away. They all seem to agree with profits of £18.6m against £16.7m for last year, a 94 per cent rise, but they are all better than feared until recently, and Laing goes for £24.6m this year and Buckmaster for £23m. Most are waiting for a sustained recovery to appear. The shares have risen on 25p yesterday.

The Ultra Electronics takeover situation again provided a centre of interest. The latest twist in the story was the news that Rascal would raise its terms following Dowry's increased offer and because of this, the Ultra shares dropped 8p to 208p. Relieved of its bidding obligation, Rascal immediately went up 5p to 228p, while Dowry held firm at 111p.

Other features on the pitch were Hoover, which lost 12p to 285p, on profit-taking after Thursday's results. Raytheon, which rose another 3p to 66p

Kleeman settles for sedate growth

After two years of "extraordinary and unprecedented" demand, Kleeman Industrial Holdings expected in 1976 to grow at a less headlong pace. So it turned out.

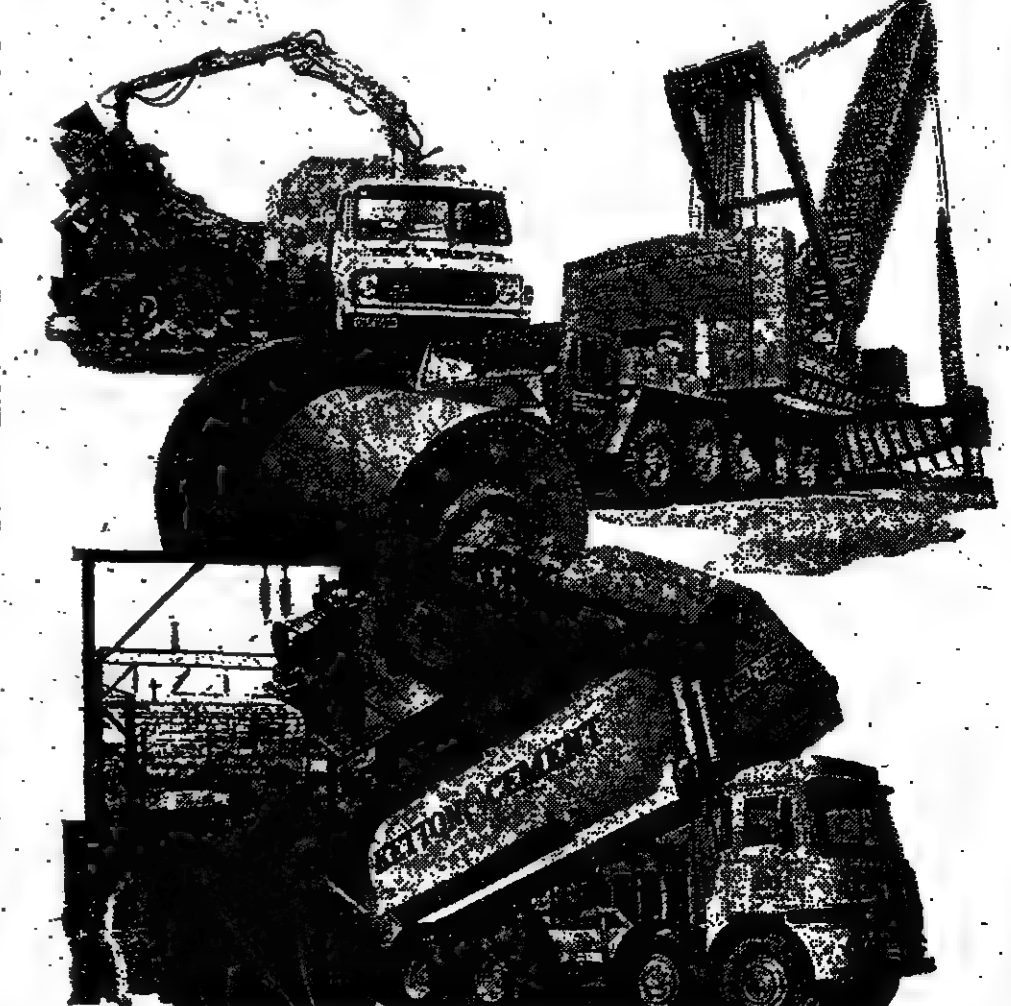
Turnover edged ahead by less than 2 per cent to £7.09m, and pre-tax profits of this year and gasket manufacturers went up 18 per cent to £2.28m. The eleven in a row. Earnings a share rose from 21.6p to 24.2p.

After an extraordinary item of £157,000 for 1975, net profits slipped from £1.1m to £1.07m

Thos. W. Ward Profit increased by 17 1/2%

At the Annual General Meeting held in Sheffield on February 25th, Mr. D. F. Walton, Chairman and Managing Director, said in the course of his review:

Profit before taxation of £8,082,000 shows an increase of 17.5% over the previous year on a turnover up from £188,094,000 to a record £209,551,000. These figures are a result of a great deal of hard work in a difficult



Salient figures for the last five years

	1976	1975	1974	1973	1972
Turnover	£209,551	£188,094	£148,582	£163,615	£86,617
Profit before Tax	8,082	6,878	7,874	7,959	5,563
Profit after Tax	3,649	2,789	3,707	4,684	3,310
Profit relating to Thos. W. Ward Limited	3,234	3,438	1,161	4,448	2,867
Basic earnings per share	7.8p	6.8p	9.0p	11.2p	7.6p
Gross Dividend per Ordinary Share	5.6p	5.6p	5.6p	6.6p	5.0p

THOS. W. WARD LIMITED, Albion Works, Sheffield S4 7UL

FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

World-wide pick-up on the cards at Howard

In spite of its 61 per cent pre-tax profit jump to £3.26m in the year to October 31 the directors of Howard Machinery are dissatisfied with returns on capital employed.

They give among the chief reasons for the inadequate profit return the high cost of production. Howard Rotavator in Britain, the floods and the economic uncertainty and over-valuation of the currency in Australia.

But excellent figures came from the French, German and Italian companies as well as from J. Mann at home. This subsidiary distributes Claas harvesting machinery and Ford industrial engines.

At Howard Rotavator, exports which were somewhat disappointing in 1975-76 are now on the upturn in some markets. Sales are buoyant, both at home and abroad, and this year should prove much better.

J. Mann, its other chief United Kingdom offshoot, again increased exports in spite of dry harvesting conditions world-wide and the impact of a depressed construction equipment market on industrial engine demand. Good things are expected from this company.

A more profitable year is also in store for the Australian side where sales were below forecast last year. But it has got off to a good start, helped by the recent devaluation. In spite of the problems in Brazil, directors are confident that the region will become a major market.

More copper powers Lornex

More copper and better prices enabled Lornex Mining Corporation of Vancouver to produce net earnings for 1976 of \$15.5m (Canadian), or \$1.53 a share, compared with only \$626,000 (8 cents a share). The 1976 net earnings are equivalent to about 29m.

Production of copper in concentrate went up from 107.2m payable pounds to 143.7m pounds.

The gross copper revenue rose a payable pound average 63 cents, compared with 55 cents. Plo Alton has 66.5 per cent of Lornex and Plo Alton is 51 per cent owned by RIZ.

Algemene Bk higher

Net consolidated profit of Algemene Bank Nederland for 1976 rose from 186.5m florins to 205.5m florins (\$48m). This was after a provision of 115.2m florins for general risks against 97m florins. Profits before both tax and provisions went up from 472.1m florins to 514m florins. The dividend rises from 21 to 22.5 florins.

Briefly

BRICOM-MENTEITH

Baring Brothers announces that offer for Bricom to buy the Ord in Menteith not already owned accepted by holders of 12m Ord, representing 94.3 per cent of the shares for £200,000 offer was made. Bricom now has 97.3 per cent of Menteith Ord. Offer remains open.

RELIABLE PROPERTIES

Again no dividend after a loss for the year to June 30 of £20,000 (against loss of £39,000).

STOBER & PITT

Holdings of 49.3 per cent in Mulders' Fabrics was sold. Material—22c loss-making Dutch asset—sold for £121,000.

TREBOR SHARPS

Turnover rose 15 per cent in 1976 and exports by one third. Future of ray and film is to be spent on advertising.

WEARRA GROUP

Experts for first four months have doubted. They should account for over £1m in full year. Good evidence in interim profits indicated.

LONDON SUMATRA

London Sumatra Plantations total of purchases by Harrods and Crossfields of 182.5m ord. spending interest to 3.3m ord. (21.2 per cent) in London Sumatra's capital.

Bank Base Rates

Bank	Base Rate
Barclays Bank	11 1/2%
Consolidated Credits	11 1/2%
First London Secs	11 1/2%
C. Hoare & Co.	11 1/2%
Lloyds Bank	11 1/2%
Midland Bank	11 1/2%
Nat Westminster	11 1/2%
Royal Bank	11 1/2%
Shearman & Sterling	11 1/2%
Williams & Glyn's	11 1/2%

* 7-day deposit on sum. up to £10,000 and 8% over £10,000.

M. J. H. NIGHTINGALE & CO. LIMITED

62-63 Threadneedle Street, London EC2R 3HP. Tel: 01-633 8651

1976	1975	Company	Price	Dividend	P/E
35	27	Airfrance Ord	35	4.2	12.1
117	100	Airfrance 181% CULS	117	18.5	15.8
32	25	Armstrong & Rhodes	32	3.0	10.7
114	95	Deborah Ord	114	8.2	8.4
122	104	Deborah 171% CULS	122	17.5	16.2
62	45	Henry Sykes	62	2.2	5.7
50	35	James Burroughs	50	6.0	7.5
23	18	Robert Jenkins	23	2.5	11.4
48	35	Twinkl Ord	48	12.0	20.7
67	54	Twinkl 12% ULS	67	6.0	3.8
63	51	Unilock Holdings	63	5.8	8.4
63	65	Walter Alexander	63	5.8	8.4

Coffee and cocoa at new highs for second day

Coffee and cocoa prices again reached new peaks in the London markets yesterday. In coffee, the March position touched £4.00 per tonne in morning trading, following from other soft commodities into coffee probably helped to push prices up although by midday sellers backed away and physical business tended to dry up.

At the afternoon close March was at £3.67.50, which was £120 up on the day and May at £2.73.50 was £154.50 ahead.

In cocoa, March reached £2.540 per tonne in morning trading. Dealers said that sustained trading reflected growing concern about the supply-demand situation which was having constructive effects on the market.

At the afternoon close near March was at £2.559, which was £89.25 up on the day and May had gained £89 to £2.541.50.

Cocoa prices were down by 25.25 and 25.00 from the previous day's close. The March position was at £2.540, which was £120 up on the day and May at £2.541.50 was £154.50 ahead.

At the afternoon close near March was at £2.559, which was £89.25 up on the day and May had gained £89 to £2.541.50.

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Commodities

Oct. 2517.75-18.00; Dec. 2517.50-18.00; Jan. 2517.25-18.00; Feb. 2517.00-18.00; Mar. 2516.75-18.00; Apr. 2516.50-18.00; May 2516.25-18.00; Jun. 2516.00-18.00; Jul. 2515.75-18.00; Aug. 2515.50-18.00; Sep. 2515.25-18.00; Oct. 2515.00-18.00; Nov. 2514.75-18.00; Dec. 2514.50-18.00; Jan. 2514.25-18.00; Feb. 2514.00-18.00; Mar. 2513.75-18.00; Apr. 2513.50-18.00; May 2513.25-18.00; Jun. 2513.00-18.00; Jul. 2512.75-18.00; Aug. 2512.50-18.00; Sep. 2512.25-18.00; Oct. 2512.00-18.00; Nov. 2511.75-18.00; Dec. 2511.50-18.00; Jan. 2511.25-18.00; Feb. 2511.00-18.00; Mar. 2510.75-18.00; Apr. 2510.50-18.00; May 2510.25-18.00; Jun. 2510.00-18.00; Jul. 259.75-18.00; Aug. 259.50-18.00; Sep. 259.25-18.00; Oct. 259.00-18.00; Nov. 258.75-18.00; Dec. 258.50-18.00; Jan. 258.25-18.00; Feb. 258.00-18.00; Mar. 257.75-18.00; Apr. 257.50-18.00; May 257.25-18.00; Jun. 257.00-18.00; Jul. 256.75-18.00; Aug. 256.50-18.00; Sep. 256.25-18.00; Oct. 256.00-18.00; Nov. 255.75-18.00; Dec. 255.50-18.00; Jan. 255.25-18.00; Feb. 255.00-18.00; 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Blue chips fall back

Account Days : Dealings Begin, Monday. Dealings End, March 11. § Contango Day, March 14. Settlement Day, March 22.
§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days.

[illegible]

Postal Shopping

TBAGS WHY PAY TOP PRICES?

Established manufacturer with surplus capacity offers the following at a considerably reduced price. Don't miss this offer for **NEW ELECTROLUX** cleaners.

1200/1750	1200/1750	1200/1750	1200/1750
1200/1750	1200/1750	1200/1750	1200/1750
1200/1750	1200/1750	1200/1750	1200/1750
1200/1750	1200/1750	1200/1750	1200/1750

T. H. Vacuum Cleaner Filters Ltd.,
100, Victoria Road, Newbury, Berks. Telephone: 310652

AS ADVERTISED ON TV!

THE EASY WAY TO TRIM AND SHAPELY FIGURE

WITH POGGE! Shape up hips, thighs, buttocks FAST with the AMERICAN BODY EXERCISER. IS FAST! IT'S EFFECTIVE! IT'S PORTABLE! IN THE EASY WAY AND MORE SHAPELY YOU IN ONLY MINUTES A DAY! Lose time and posture. LOOK BETTER. FEEL BETTER! Feel MORE VITAL... or money back! Send ONLY £1.50 25p p.p. for order TWO for only £2.99 inc p.p.

WILL LTD., Dept. X54 13 Railway Street, Chelmsford CM1 1QS.

Calculators

SCM	SCM	SCM
SCM	SCM	SCM
SCM	SCM	SCM

Typewriters

SCM	SCM	SCM
SCM	SCM	SCM
SCM	SCM	SCM

Marble Arch Typewriter

REGENT ST. 225 Regent St. W. 1. 01-236 2827
MIDGATE 107 Midgate, E.C. 1. 01-236 4552
LONDON E14 4JL. 01-236 1909
NICHLEY 134 Nichley Lane, W. 1. 01-236 785

ers' Protection Scheme Mail Order Advertising

and from April 1, 1976, national newspapers have set up a fund to protect the public from mail order traders who fail to deliver goods or services. This fund is managed by the Mail Order Advertising Association (MOAA) and is designed to protect the public from mail order traders who fail to deliver goods or services. The fund is managed by the Mail Order Advertising Association (MOAA) and is designed to protect the public from mail order traders who fail to deliver goods or services.

MONTHS instead of years!

ELECTRONIC ORGAN, MANO ACCORDION. Method - quicken you will read music but send your name (including instrument) to: MUSIC (ZC), 100, Victoria Road, Newbury, Berks. 310652.

WATERPROOF CLOTHES

A full range of clothes to waterproof your wardrobe. A full range of clothes to waterproof your wardrobe. A full range of clothes to waterproof your wardrobe. A full range of clothes to waterproof your wardrobe. A full range of clothes to waterproof your wardrobe.

ABTREE RDENS

London Garden Centre and Outdoor Shopping in Sunbays. Abtree Lane, London SW6. 01-385 6280.

PLASTIC COATED SHELVEING

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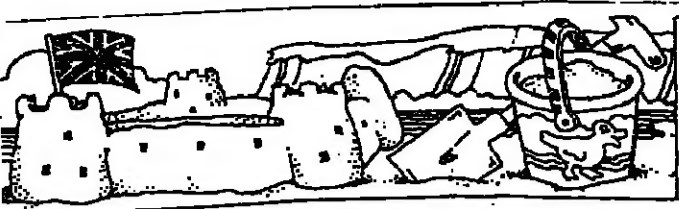
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